MEMOIRS

OF A

Woman of Pleaſure.

FROM THE

ORIGINAL CORRECTED EDITION.

WITH A

SET OF ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.

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MEMOIRS

OF A

WOMAN OF PLEASURE.

MADAM,

IF I have delayed the ſequel of my hiſtory, it has been purely to afford myſelf a little breathing time, not without ſome hopes that inſtead of preſſing me to a continuation, you would have acquitted me of the taſk of purſuing a confeſſion, in the courſe of which, my ſelf-eſteem has ſo many wounds to ſuſtain.

I imagined indeed, that you would have been cloyed and tired with the uniformity of adventures and expreſſions, inſeparable from a ſubject of this ſort, whoſe bottom or ground-work being, in the nature of things, eternally one and the ſame, whatever variety of forms and modes, the ſituations are ſuſceptible of, there is no eſcaping a repetition of near the ſame images, the ſame figures, the ſame expreſſions, with this further inconvenience added to the diſguſt it creates, that the

words *joys*, *ardours*, *tranſports*, *extaſias*, and the reſt of thoſe pathetic terms ſo congenial to, ſo received in the *practice of pleaſure*, flatten, and loſe much of their due ſpirit and energy, by the frequency they indiſpenſibly recur with, in a narrative of which that *practice* profeſſedly compoſes the whole baſis: I muſt therefore truſt to the candour of your judgment for your allowing for the diſadvantage I am neceſſarily under, in that reſpect, and to your imagination and ſenſibility the pleaſing taſk of repairing it, by their ſupplements, where my deſcriptions flag or fail: the one will readily place the pictures I preſent before your eyes, the other give life to the colours where they are dull, or worn with too frequent handling.

What you ſay beſides, by way of encouragement concerning the extreme difficulty of continuing ſo long in one ſtrain, in a mean tempered with taſte, between the revoltingneſs of groſs, rank, and vulgar expreſſions, and the ridicule of mincing metaphors and affected circumlocutions, is ſo ſenſible, as well as good-natured, that you greatly juſtify me to myſelf for my compliance with a curioſity that is to be ſatisfied ſo extremely at my expence.

Reſuming now where I broke off in my laſt; I am, in my way, to remark to you, that it was late in the evening before I arrived at my new lodgings, and Mrs. *Cole*, after helping me to range, and ſecure my things, ſpent the whole evening with me in my apartment, where we ſupped together, in giving me the beſt advice and inſtruction

tion with regard to this new ſtage of my profeſſion I was now to enter upon, and paſſing thus from a private devotee to pleaſure, into a public one, to become a more general good, with all the advantages requiſite to put my perſon out to uſe, either for intereſt, or pleaſure, or both. But then ſhe obſerved, as I was a kind of new face upon the town, that it was an eſtabliſhed rule, and myſtery of trade, for me to paſs for a maid, and diſpoſe of myſelf as ſuch on the firſt good occaſion, without prejudice however, to ſuch diverſions as I might have a mind to in the interim, for that nobody could be a greater enemy than ſhe was to the loſing of time. That ſhe would, in the mean time, do her beſt to find out a proper perſon, and would undertake to manage this nice point for me, if I would accept of her aid and advice to ſuch good purpoſe, that in the loſs of a fictitious maiden-head, I ſhould reap all the advantages of a native one.

As a great delicacy of ſentiments did not extremely belong to my character at that time, I confeſs, againſt myſelf, that I perhaps too readily cloſed with a propoſal which my candor and ingenuity gave me ſome repugnance to: but not enough to contradict the intention of one to whom I had now throughly abandoned the direction of all my ſteps. For Mrs. *Cole* had, I do not know how, unleſs by one of thoſe unaccountable invincible ſympathies, that nevertheleſs form the ſtrongeſt links, eſpecially of female-friendſhip, won and got intire poſſeſſion of me. On her ſide,

ſhe pretended that a ſtrict reſemblance, ſhe fancied ſhe ſaw in me to an only daughter, whom ſhe had loſt at my age, was the firſt motive of her taking to me ſo affectionately as ſhe did: it might be ſo: there exiſt as ſlender motives of attachments, that gathering force from habit, and liking, have proved often more ſolid, and durable, than thoſe founded on much ſtronger reaſons: but this I know, that tho' I had had no other acquaintance with her, than ſeeing her at my lodgings, when I lived with Mr. *H*———, where ſhe had made errands to ſell me ſome millinery ware, ſhe had by degrees inſinuated herſelf ſo far into my confidence, that I threw myſelf blindly into her hands, and came at length to regard, love, and obey her implicitly: and to do her juſtice, I never experienced at her hands other than a ſincerity of tenderneſs, and care for my intereſt, hardly heard of in thoſe of her profeſſion. We parted that night, after having ſettled a perfect unreſerved agreement; and the next morning Mrs. *Cole* came, and took me with her to her houſe, for the firſt time.

Here, at the firſt ſight of things, I found every thing breathe an air of decency, modeſty, and order.

In the outer-parlour, or rather ſhop, ſat three young women, very demurely employed on millinery work, which was the cover of a traffic in more precious commodities: but three beautifuller creatures could hardly be ſeen: two of them were extremely fair, the eldeſt not above nineteen,

teen, and the third, much about that age, was a piquant brunette, whoſe black ſparkling eyes, and perfect harmony of features, and ſhape, left her nothing to envy in her fairer companions: Their dreſs too, had the more deſign in it, the leſs it appeared to have, being in a taſte of uniform correct neatneſs, and elegant ſimplicity. Theſe were the girls that compoſed the ſmall, and domeſtic flock, which my governeſs trained up with ſurpriſing order and management, conſidering the giddy wildneſs of young girls once got upon the looſe. But then ſhe never continued any in her houſe, whom after a due noviciate, ſhe found untractable, or unwilling to comply with the rules of it. Thus had ſhe inſenſibly formed a little family of love, in which the members found ſo ſenſibly their account in a rare alliance of pleaſure with intereſt, and of a neceſſary outward decency, with unbounded ſecret liberty, that Mrs. *Cole*, who had picked them as much for their temper as their beauty, governed them with eaſe to herſelf, and them too.

To theſe pupils then of hers, whom ſhe had prepared, ſhe preſented me as a new boarder, and one that was to be immediately admitted to all the intimacies of the houſe; upon which thoſe charming girls gave me all the marks of a welcome reception, and indeed of being perfectly pleaſed with my figure, that I could poſſibly expect from any of my own ſex; but they had been effectually brought to ſacrifice all jealouſy, or competition of charms, to a common intereſt; and

conſidered me as a partner, that was bringing no deſpicable ſtock of goods into the trade of the houſe: they gathered round me, viewed me on all ſides; and, as my admiſſion into this joyous troop made a little holiday, the ſhew of work was laid aſide, and Mrs. *Cole* giving me up, with ſpecial recommendation, to their careſſes and entertainment, went about her ordinary buſineſs of the houſe.

The ſameneſs of our ſex, age, profeſſion, and views, ſoon created as unreſerved a freedom and intimacy as if we had been for years acquainted. They took and ſhewed me the houſe, their reſpective apartments, which were furniſhed with every article of conveniency and luxury, and above all, a ſpacious drawing-room, where a ſelect revelling band uſually met, in general parties of pleaſure; the girls ſupping with their ſparks, and acting their wanton pranks with unbounded licentiouſneſs, whilſt a defiance of awe, modeſty, or jealouſy, were their ſtanding rules, by which, according to the principles of their ſociety, whatever pleaſure was loſt on the ſide of ſentiment, was abundantly made up to the ſenſes, in the poignancy of variety, and the charms of eaſe and luxury. The authors and ſupporters of this ſecret inſtitution, would, in the height of their humour, ſtyle themſelves the reſtorers of the liberty of the golden age, and its ſimplicity of pleaſures, before their innocence became ſo unjuſtly branded with the names of guilt and ſhame.

As ſoon then as the evening began, and the ſhew of a ſhop was ſhut, the academy opened, the maſk

maſk of mock-modeſty was compleatly taken off, and all the girls delivered over to their reſpective calls of pleaſure, or intereſt, with their men: and none of that ſex were promiſcuouſly admitted, but only ſuch as Mrs. *Cole* was previouſly ſatisfied of their character and diſcretion. In ſhort, this was the ſafeſt, politeſt, and at the ſame time the moſt thorough houſe of accommodation in town, every thing being conducted ſo, that decency made no intrenchment upon the moſt libertine pleaſures, in the practice of which too, the choice familiars of the houſe had found the ſecret ſo rare and difficult, of reconciling even all the refinements of taſte and delicacy, with the moſt groſs and determinate gratifications of ſenſuality.

After having conſumed the morning in the indearments and inſtructions of my new acquaintance, we went to dinner, when Mrs. *Cole*, preſiding at the head of her cluck, gave me the firſt idea of her management and addreſs, in inſpiring theſe lively amiable girls with ſo ſenſible a love, and reſpect for her. There was no ſtiffneſs, no reſerve, no airs of pique, or little jealouſies, but all was unaffectedly gay, chearful, and eaſy.

After dinner, Mrs. *Cole*, ſeconded by the young ladies, acquainted me, that there was a chapter to be held that night in form, for the ceremony of my reception into the ſiſterhood, and in which with all due reſerve to my maiden-head, that was to be occaſionally cooked up for the firſt proper chapman, I was to undergo a ceremonial

of initiation, they were ſure I ſhould not be diſpleaſed with.

Embarked as I was, and moreover captivated with the charms of my new companions, I was too much prejudiced in favour of any propoſal they could make, to ſo much as heſitate an aſſent, which therefore readily giving, in the ſtyle of a *charte blanche*, I received freſh kiſſes of compliment from them all, in approval of my docility and good-nature, "now I was a ſweet girl,———" "I came into things with a good grace,———", "I was not affectedly coy———" "I ſhould "be the pride of the houſe———" and the like.

This point thus adjuſted, the young women left Mrs. *Cole* to talk and concert matters with me, when ſhe explained to me, that I ſhould be introduced that very evening to four of her beſt friends, one of whom ſhe had, according to the cuſtom of the houſe, favoured with the preference of engaging me in the firſt party of pleaſure, aſſuring me at the ſame time, that they were all young gentlemen agreeable in their perſons, and unexceptionable in every reſpect; that united and holding together by the band of common pleaſures, they compoſed the chief ſupport of her houſe, and made very liberal preſents to the girls that pleaſed and humoured them, ſo that they were properly ſpeaking the founders, and patrons of this little ſeraglio. Not but that ſhe had, at proper ſeaſons, other cuſtomers to deal with, whom ſhe ſtood leſs upon punctilio with, than with

with theſe: for inſtance, it was not on one of them ſhe could attempt to paſs me for a maid; they were not only too knowing, too much town-bred, to bite at ſuch a bait, but they were ſuch generous benefactors to her, that it would have been unpardonable to think of it.

Amidſt all the flutter and emotion which this promiſe of pleaſure, for ſuch I conceived it, ſtirred up in me, I preſerved ſo much of the woman as to feign juſt reluctance enough, to make ſome merit of ſacrificing it to the influence of my patroneſs, whom I likewiſe, ſtill in character, reminded of its perhaps being right for me to go home and dreſs in favour of my firſt impreſſions.

But Mrs. *Cole*, in oppoſition to this, aſſured me that the gentlemen I ſhould be preſented to, were, by their rank and taſte of things, infinitely ſuperior to the being touched with any glare of dreſs, or ornaments, ſuch as ſilly women rather confound, and overlay, than ſet off their beauty with; that theſe veteran voluptuaries knew better than not to hold them in the higheſt contempt, they with whom the pure native charms alone could paſs current, and who would at any time leave a ſallow, waſhy, painted ducheſs on her own hands, for a ruddy, healthy, firm-fleſh'd country-maid: and as for my part, that nature had done enough for me, to ſet me above owing the leaſt favour to art; concluding withal, that for the inſtant occaſion, there was no dreſs like an undreſs.

I thought my governeſs too good a judge of theſe matters, not to be eaſily over-ruled by her: after which ſhe went on preaching very pathetically the doctrine of paſſive obedience, and non-reſiſtance to all thoſe arbitrary taſtes of pleaſure, which are by ſome ſtiled the refinements, and by others, the depravations of it; between whom it was not the buſineſs of a ſimple girl, who was to profit by pleaſing, to decide, but to conform.

While I was edifying by theſe wholeſome leſſons, tea was brought in, and the young ladies, returning, joined company with us.

After a great deal of mixed chat, frolick, and humour, one of them, obſerving that there would be a good deal of time on hand before the aſſembly hour, propoſed, that each girl ſhould entertain the company with that critical period of her perſonal hiſtory, in which ſhe firſt exchanged the maiden ſtate for womanhood. The propoſal was approved, with one only reſtriction of Mrs. *Cole*, that ſhe, on the account of her age, and I on the account of my titular maidenhood, ſhould be excuſed, at leaſt till I had undergone the forms of the houſe. This obtained me a diſpenſation, and the promotreſs of this amuſement was deſired to begin.

Her name was *Emily* ———, a girl fair to exceſs, and whoſe limbs were if poſſible too well-made, ſince their plump fulneſs was rather to the prejudice of that delicate ſlimneſs of ſhape required by the nicer judges of beauty: her eyes were

were blue, and ſtreamed inexpreſſible ſweetneſs, and nothing could be prettier than her mouth and lips, which cloſed over a range of the eveneſt, whiteſt teeth.———Thus ſhe began.

Neither my extraction, nor the moſt critical adventure of my life, are ſublime enough to impeach me of any vanity in the advancement of the propoſal you have approved of. My father and mother were, and for ought I know, are ſtill, farmers in the country, not above forty miles from town. Their barbarity to me, in favour of a ſon, on whom only they vouchſafed to beſtow their tenderneſs, had a thouſand times determined me to fly their houſe, and throw myſelf on the wide world; but at length an accident forced me on this deſperate ſtep, at the age of fifteen. I had broken a china-bowl, the pride and idol of both their hearts, and as an unmerciful beating was the leaſt I had to depend on at their hands, in the fillineſs and timidity of thoſe tender years, I left the houſe, and at all adventures took the road to *London*. How my loſs was reſented I do not know, for till this inſtant I have not heard a ſyllable about them. My whole ſtock was too broad-pieces of my god-mother's, a few ſhillings, ſilver ſhoe-buckles, and thimble. Thus equipped, with no more cloaths than the ordinary ones I had on my back, and frighten'd at every foot, or noiſe I heard behind me, I hurried on: and I dare ſwear walked a dozen miles before I ſtopped thro' mere wearineſs and fatigue. I ſat down on a ſtile, where I wept bitterly, and yet

yet was ſtill rather under increaſed impreſſions of fear on the account of my eſcape; which made me dread worſe than death, the going back to face my unnatural parents. Refreſhed by this little repoſe, and relieved by my tears, I was proceeding onward, when I was overtaken by a ſturdy country lad, who was going to *London*, to ſee what he could do for himſelf there, and, like me, had given his friends the ſlip. He could not be above ſeventeen, was ruddy, well featured enough, with uncombed flaxen hair, a little flapped hat, a kerſey-frock, yarn ſtockings; in ſhort, a perfect plough-boy. I ſaw him come whiſtling behind me, with a bundle tied to the end of a ſtick: his travelling equipage. We walked by one another for ſome time without ſpeaking, at length we joined company, and agreed to keep together till we got to our journey's end. What his deſigns or ideas were I know not: the innocence of mine I can ſolemnly proteſt. As night drew on, it became us to look out for ſome inn, or ſhelter; to which perplexity another was added, and that was, what we ſhould ſay for ourſelves, if we were queſtioned: after ſome puzzle, the young fellow ſtarted a propoſal, which I thought the fineſt that could be; and what was that? why that we ſhould paſs for huſband and wife: I never once dreamed of conſequences. We came preſently, after having agreed on this notable expedient, to one of thoſe hedge-accommodations for foot-paſſengers, at the door of which ſtood an old crazy beldam, who, ſeeing

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ſeeing us trudge by, invited us to lodge there. Glad of any cover, we went in, and my fellow-traveller taking all upon him, called for what the houſe afforded, and we ſupped together as man and wife, which conſidering our figures, and ages, could not have paſt on any one, but ſuch as any thing could paſs on. But when bed-time came on, we had neither of us the courage to contradict our firſt account of ourſelves; and what was extremely pleaſant, the young lad ſeemed as perplexed as I was, how to evade the lying together, which was ſo natural for the ſtate we had pretended to: whilſt we were in this quandary, the landlady takes the candle, and lights us to our apartment, through a long yard, at the end of which it ſtood, ſeparate from the body of the houſe. Thus we ſuffered ourſelves to be conducted, without ſaying a word in oppoſition to it, and there, in a wretched room, with a bed anſwerable, we were left to paſs the night together, as a thing quite in courſe. For my part, I was ſo incredibly innocent, as not even then to think much more harm of going into bed with the young man, than with one of our dairy wenches: nor had he perhaps any other notions than thoſe of innocence, till ſuch a fair occaſion put them into his head. Before either of us undreſſed, however, he put out the candle; and the bitterneſs of the weather made it a kind of neceſſity for me to get into bed: ſlipping then my cloaths off, I crept under the bed-cloaths, where I found the young ſtripling already neſtled, and the touch

of

of his warm fleſh rather pleaſed than alarmed me. I was indeed too much diſturbed with the novelty of my condition, to be able to ſleep; but then I had not the leaſt thought of harm: but oh! how powerful are the inſtincts of nature, and how little is there wanting to ſet them in action? The young man ſliding his arm under my body, drew me gently towards him, as if to keep himſelf and me warmer; and the heat I felt from joining our breaſts, kindled another that I had hitherto never felt, and was even then a ſtranger to the nature of. Emboldened, I ſuppoſe, by my eaſineſs, he ventured to kiſs me, and I inſenſibly returned it, without knowing the conſequence of returning it: for on this encouragement, he ſlipped his hand all down from my breaſt, to that part of me, where the ſenſe of feeling is ſo exquiſitely critical, as I then experienced by its inſtant taking fire upon the touch, and glowing with a ſtrange tickling heat: there he pleaſed himſelf and me, by feeling, till growing a little too bold, he hurt me, and made me complain: then he took my hand, which he guided, not unwillingly on my ſide, between the twiſt of his cloſed thighs, which were extremely warm; there he lodged and preſſed it, till raiſing it by degrees, he made me feel the proud diſtinction of his ſex from mine. I was frightened at the novelty, and drew back my hand; yet, preſſed and ſpurred on by ſenſations of a ſtrange pleaſure, I could not help aſking him, what that was for? He told me, he would ſhew me, if I would let

let him; and without waiting for my anſwer, which he prevented by ſtopping my mouth with kiſſes, I was far from difreliſhing, he got a-top of me, and inſerting one of his thighs between mine, opened them ſo as to make way for himſelf, and fixed me to his purpoſe; whilſt I was ſo much out of my uſual ſenſe, ſo ſubdued by the preſent power of a new one, that, between fear and deſire, I lay utterly paſſive, till the piercing pain rouzed, and made me cry out: but it was too late; he was too firm and fixed in the ſaddle for me to compaſs flinging him, with all the ſtruggles I could uſe, ſome of which only ſerved to further his point, and at length an omnipotent thruſt murdered at once my maidenhead, and almoſt me: I now lay a bleeding witneſs of the neceſſity impoſed on our ſex, to gather the firſt honey off the thorns.

But the pleaſure riſing, as the pain ſubſided, I was ſoon reconciled to freſh trials, and before morning, nothing on earth could be dearer to me than this rifler of my virgin-ſweets. He was every thing to me now. How we agreed to join fortunes, how we came up to town together, where we lived ſome time, till neceſſity parted us, and drove me into this courſe of life, in which I had been long ago battered and torn to pieces before I came to this age, as much through my eaſineſs, as through my inclination, had it not been for my finding refuge in this houſe; theſe are all circumſtances which paſs the mark I propoſed, ſo that here my narrative ends.

In

In the order of our ſitting, it was *Harriet*'s turn to go on. Amongſt all the beauties of our ſex that I had before or have ſince ſeen, few indeed were the forms that could diſpute excellence with her's; it was not delicate, but delicacy itſelf incarnate. Such was the ſymmetry of her ſmall, but exactly faſhioned limbs. Her complexion, fair as it was, appeared yet more fair, from the effect of two black eyes, the brilliancy of which gave her face more vivacity than belonged to the colour of it, which was only defended from paleneſs, by a ſweetly pleaſing bluſh in her cheeks, that grew fainter and fainter, till at length it died away inſenſibly into the overbearing white. Then her miniature features joined to finiſh the extreme ſweetneſs of it, which was not belied by that of a temper turned to indolence, languor, and the pleaſures of love. Preſſed to ſubſcribe her contingent, ſhe ſmiled, bluſhed a little, and thus complied with our deſires.

My father was neither better nor worſe than a miller, near the city of *York*; but both he and my mother dying whilſt I was an infant, I fell under the care of a widow, and childleſs aunt, houſe-keeper to my lord *N*——, at his ſeat in the county of ———, where ſhe brought me up with all imaginable tenderneſs. I was not ſeventeen, as I am not now eighteen, before I had, on the account of my perſon purely, (for fortune I had notoriouſly none) ſeveral advantageous propoſals: but whether nature was ſlow in

in making me ſenſible of her favourite paſſion, or that I had not ſeen any of the other ſex who had ſtirred up the leaſt emotion or curioſity to be better acquainted with it, I had till that age preſerved a perfect innocence even of thought: whilſt my fears of I did not well know what, made me no more deſirous of marrying than of dying. My aunt, good woman, favoured my timorouſnefs, which ſhe looked on as a childiſh affection, that her own experience might probably aſſure her would wear off in time, and gave my ſuiters proper anſwers for me.

The family had not been down at this ſeat for years, ſo that it was neglected, and committed entirely to my aunt, and two more old domeſtics, to take care of it.

Thus I had the full range of a ſpacious lonely houſe, and gardens, ſituate at about half a mile diſtance from any other habitation, except perhaps a ſtraggling cottage, or ſo.

Here, in tranquillity, and innocence, I grew up, without any memorable accident, till one fatal day I had, as I had often done before, left my aunt faſt aſleep, and ſecure for ſome hours, after dinner: and reſorting to a kind of antient ſummer-houſe, at ſome diſtance from the houſe, I carried my work with me, and ſat over a rivulet, which its door and window faced upon. Here I fell into a gentle-breathing ſlumber, which ſtole upon my ſenſes, as they fainted under the exceſſive heat of the ſeaſon, at that hour: a cane-couch, with my work-baſket for a pillow,

were all the conveniences of my ſhort repoſe; for I was ſoon awaked and alarmed by a flounce, and noiſe of ſplaſhing in the water, I got up to ſee what was the matter; and what indeed ſhould it be but the ſon of a neighbouring gentleman, as I afterwards found, (for I had never ſeen him before,) who had ſtrayed that way with his gun, and heated by his ſport, and the ſultrineſs of the day, had been tempted by the freſhneſs of the clear ſtream; ſo that preſently ſtripping, he jumped into it on the other ſide which bordered on a wood, ſome trees whereof, inclined down to the water, formed a pleaſing, ſhady receſs, commodious to undreſs, and leave his cloaths under.

My firſt emotions, at the ſight of this youth naked in the water, were, with all imaginable reſpect to truth, thoſe of ſurprize and fear: and in courſe I ſhould immediately have run out, had not my modeſty, fatally for itſelf, interpoſed the objection of the door and window being ſo ſituated, that it was ſcarce poſſible to get out, and make my way along the bank to the houſe, without his ſeeing me: which I could not bear the thought of, ſo much aſhamed and confounded was I at having ſeen him. Condemned then to ſtay till his departure ſhould releaſe me, I was greatly embarraſſed how to diſpoſe of myſelf: I kept ſometime, betwixt terror and modeſty, even from looking through the window, which being an old faſhioned caſement, without any light behind me, could hardly betray any one's being there to him from within: then the door was ſo ſecure,

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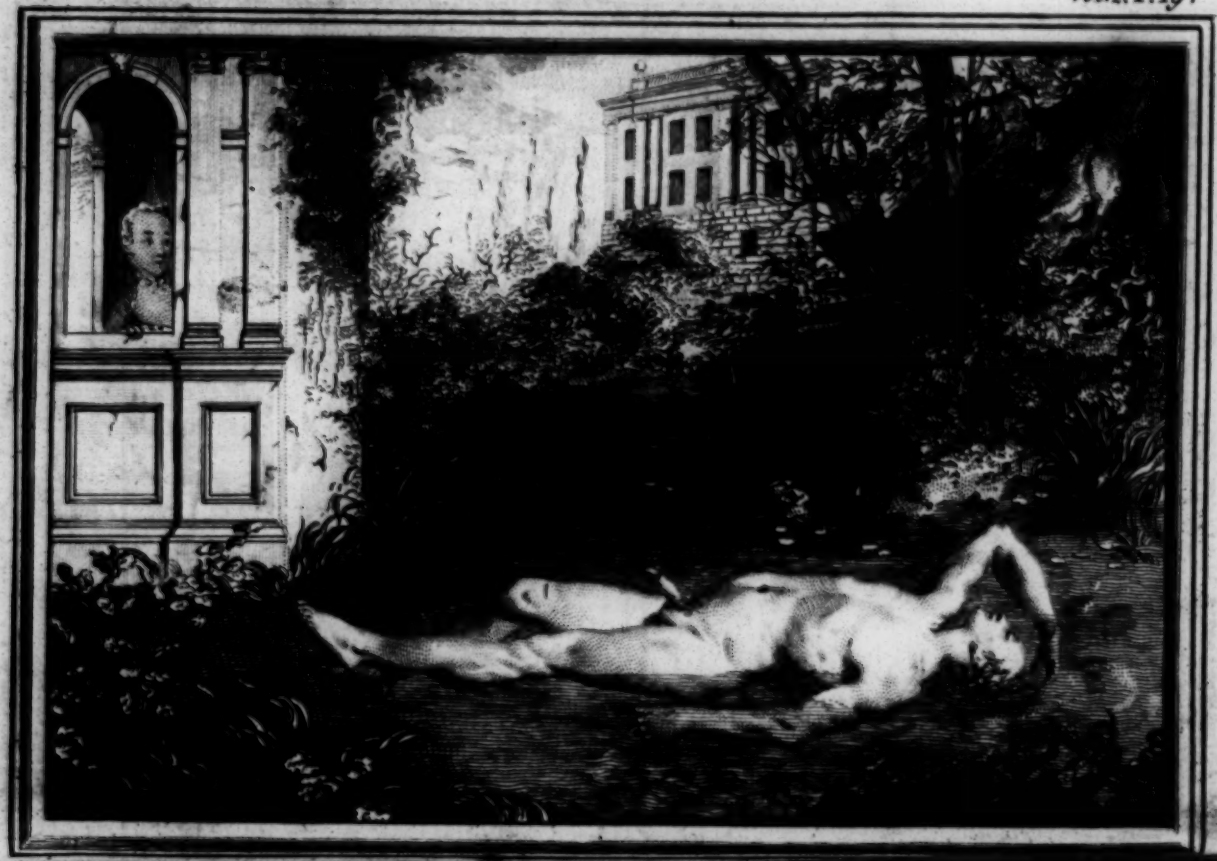

that without violence, or my own conſent, there was no opening it, from without.

But now, by my own experience, I found it too true, that objects which affright us, when we cannot get from them, draw our eyes as forcibly as thoſe that pleaſe us. I could not long withſtand that nameleſs impulſe, which, without any deſire of this novel ſight, compelled me towards it: emboldened too by my certainty of being at once unſeen and ſafe, I ventured by degrees to caſt my eyes on the object ſo terrible and alarming to my virgin modeſty as a naked man: But as I ſnatched a look, the firſt gleam that ſtruck me, was in general, the dewy luſtre of the whiteſt ſkin imaginable, which the ſun playing upon, made the reflection of it perfectly beamy. His face, in the confuſion I was in, I could not well diſtinguiſh the lineaments of, any farther than there was a great deal of youth and freſhneſs in it. The frolic, and various play of all his fine poliſhed limbs, as they appeared above the ſurface, in the courſe of his ſwimming, or wantoning with the water, amuſed and inſenſibly delighted me: ſometimes he lay motionleſs on his back, water-born, and dragging after him a fine head of hair, that floating ſwept the ſtream in a buſh of black curls. Then the overflowing water would make a ſeparation between his breaſt and gloſſy white belly; at the bottom of which, I could not eſcape obſerving ſo remarkable a diſtinction, as a black moſſy tuft; out of which appeared to emerge a round, ſoftiſh, limber, white, ſomething, that played

every way, with every the leaſt motion or whirling eddy. I cannot ſay but that part chiefly, by a kind of natural inſtinct, attracted, detained, captivated my attention: it was out of the power of all my modeſty to command my eye away from it, and ſeeing nothing ſo very dreadful in its appearance, I ſenſibly looked away all my fears: but as faſt as they gave way, new deſires and ſtrange wiſhes took place, and I melted as I gazed. The fire of nature, that had ſo long lain dorment, or concealed, began to break out, and make me feel my ſex for the firſt time. He had now changed his poſture, and ſwam prone on his belly, breaſting the ſtream, and ſtriking out with his legs and arms, finer modelled than which could not have been caſt, while his floating locks played over a neck and ſhoulders, whoſe whiteneſs they delightfully ſet off. Then the luxuriant ſwell of fleſh that roſe from the ſmall of his back, and terminates its double cope at where the thighs are ſet off, perfectly dazzled one with its watery gliſtening gloſs.

By this time I was ſo affected by this inward revolution of ſentiments, ſo ſoftened by this ſight, that now, betrayed into a ſudden tranſition from extreme fears to extreme deſires, I found theſe laſt ſo ſtrong upon me, the heat of the weather too perhaps conſpiring to exalt their rage, that nature almoſt fainted under them: not that I ſo much as knew preciſely what was wanting to me; my only thought was, that ſo ſweet a creature as this youth ſeemed to me, could only make me happy;

happy; but then the little likelihood there was of compaſſing an acquaintance with him, or perhaps of ever ſeeing him again, daſhed my deſires, and turned them into torments. I was ſtill gazing with all the powers of my ſight on this bewitching object, when, in an inſtant, down he went. I had heard of ſuch things as a cramp ſeizing on even the beſt ſwimmers, and occaſioning their being drowned; and imagining this ſo ſudden eclipſe to be owing to it, the inconceivable fondneſs this unknown had given birth to, diſtracted me with the moſt killing terrors, inſomuch, that my concern giving me wings, I flew to the door, opened it, ran down to the banks of the canal, guided thither by the madneſs of my fears for him, and the intenſe deſire of being an inſtrument to ſave him, though I was ignorant how, or by what means to effect it; but was it for fears, and a paſſion ſo ſudden as mine to reaſon? All this took ſcarce the ſpace of a few moments. I had then juſt life enough to reach the green borders of the water-piece, where wildly looking round for the young man, and miſſing him ſtill, my fright and concern ſunk me down in a deep ſwoon, which muſt have laſted me ſome time; for I did not come to myſelf, till I was rouzed out of it by a ſenſe of pain that pierced me to the vitals, and awaked me to the moſt ſurpriſing circumſtance of finding myſelf not only in the arms of this very ſame young gentleman I had been ſo ſollicitous to ſave; but taken at ſuch an advantage in my unreſiſting condition, that he had actually completed his

entrance into my body ſo far, that weakened as I was by all the preceding conflicts of mind I had ſuffered, and ſtruck dumb by the violence of my ſurprize, I had neither the power to cry out, nor the ſtrength to diſengage myſelf from his ſtrenuous embraces, before, urging his point, he had forced his way into me, and completely triumphed over my virginity, as he might now as well ſee by the ſtreams of blood that followed his drawing out, as he had felt by the difficulties he had met with in conſummating his penetration. But the ſight of the blood, and the ſenſe of my condition, had (as he told me afterwards) ſince the ungovernable rage of his paſſion was ſomewhat appeaſed, now wrought ſo far on him, that at all riſques, even of the worſt conſequences, he could not find in his heart to leave me, and make off, which he might eaſily have done. I ſtill lay in all the diſorder of bleeding ruin, palpitating, ſpeechleſs, unable to get off, and frightened, and fluttering like a poor wounded partridge, and ready to faint away again at the ſenſe of what had befallen me. The young gentleman was cloſe by me, kneeling, kiſſing my hand, and with tears in his eyes, beſeeching me to forgive him, and offering all the reparation in his power——It is certain, that could I, at the inſtant of regaining my ſenſes, have called out, or taken the bloodieſt revenge, I would not have ſtuck at it: the violation was attended too with ſuch aggravating circumſtances! though he was ignorant of them, ſince it was to

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my concern for the preſervation of his life, that I owed my ruin.

But how quick is the ſhift of paſſions from one extreme to another! and how little are they acquainted with the human heart who diſpute it! I could not ſee this amiable criminal, ſo ſuddenly the firſt object of my love, and as ſuddenly of my juſt hate, on his knees, bedewing my hand with his tears, without relenting: He was ſtill ſtark-naked, but my modeſty had been already too much wounded, in eſſentials, to be ſo much ſhocked as I ſhould have otherwiſe been with appearances only: in ſhort, my anger ebbed ſo faſt, and the tide of love returned ſo ſtrong upon me, that I felt it a point of my own happineſs to forgive him: the reproaches I made him were murmured in ſo ſoft a tone, my eyes met his with ſuch glances, expreſſing more languor than reſentment, that he could not but preſume his forgiveneſs was at no deſperate diſtance; but ſtill he would not quit his poſture of ſubmiſſion, till I had prounced his pardon in form; which, after the moſt fervent entreaties, proteſtations, and promiſes, I had not the power to withhold. On which with the utmoſt marks of a fear of again offending, he ventured to kiſs my lips, which I neither declined, or reſented: but on my mild expoſtulations with him upon the barbarity of his treatment, he explained the myſtery of my ruin, if not entirely to the clearance, at leaſt much to the alleviation of his guilt, in the eyes of a judge ſo partial in his favour as I was grown. It ſeems

that the circumſtance of his going down, or ſinking, which in my extreme ignorance I had miſtaken for ſomething very fatal, was no other than a trick of diving, which I had not ever heard, or at leaſt attended to, the mention of; and he was ſo long-breathed at it, that in the few moments in which I ran out to ſave him, he had not yet emerged, before I fell into the ſwoon, in which, as he roſe, ſeeing me extended on the bank, his firſt idea was, that ſome young woman was upon ſome deſign of frolick or diverſion with him, for he knew I could not have fallen a-ſleep there without his having ſeen me before; agreeable to which notion he had ventured to approach, and finding me without ſign of life, and ſtill perplexed as he was what to think of the adventure, he took me in his arms at all hazards, and carried me into the ſummer-houſe, of which he obſerved the door open: there he laid me down on the couch, and tried, as he proteſted in good faith, by ſeveral means to bring me to myſelf again, till fired, as he ſaid beyond all bearing, by the ſight and touch of ſeveral parts of me, which were unguardedly expoſed to him, he could no longer govern his paſſion, and the leſs, as he was not quite ſure that his firſt idea of this ſwoon being a feint, was not the very truth of the caſe: ſeduced then by this flattering notion, and overcome by the preſent, as he ſtiled them, ſuper-human temptations, combined with the ſolitude, and ſeeming ſecurity of the attempt, he was not enough his own maſter not to make it. Leaving me then

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juſt only whilſt he faſtened the door, he returned with redoubled eagerneſs to his prey, when finding me ſtill entranced, he ventured to place me as he pleaſed, whilſt I felt, no more than the dead, what he was about, till the pain he put me to, rouzed me juſt time enough to be witneſs of a triumph I was not able to defeat, and now ſcarce regretted: for, as he talked, the tone of his voice ſounded, methought, ſo ſweetly in my ears, the ſenſible nearneſs of ſo new and intereſting an object to me, wrought ſo powerfully upon me, that in the riſing perception of things in a new and pleaſing light, I loſt all ſenſe of the paſt injury. The young gentleman ſoon diſcerned the ſymptoms of a reconciliation in my ſoftened looks, and haſtening to receive the ſeal of it from my lips, preſſed them tenderly to paſs his pardon in the return of a kiſs ſo melting fiery, that the impreſſion of it being carried to my heart, and thence to my new-diſcovered ſphere of Venus, I was melted into a ſoftneſs, that could refuſe him nothing. When now he managed his careſſes and endearments ſo artfully as to inſinuate the moſt ſoothing conſolations for the paſt pain, and the moſt pleaſing expectations of future pleaſure; but whilſt mere modeſty kept my eyes from ſeeking his, and rather declined them, I had a glimpſe of that inſtrument of the miſchief, which was now, obviouſly even to me, who had ſcarce had ſnatches of a comparative obſervation of it, reſuming its capacity to renew it, and grew greatly alarming with its increaſe of ſize, as he bore it no doubt deſignedly,

edly, hard and ſtiff, againſt one of my hands careleſly dropt; but then he employed ſuch tender prefacing, ſuch winning progreſſions, that my returning paſſion of deſire being now ſo ſtrongly prompted by the engaging circumſtances of the ſight and incendiary touch of his naked glowing beauties; I yielded at length to the force of the preſent impreſſions, and he obtained of my tacit bluſhing conſent, all the gratifications of pleaſure left in the power of my poor perſon to beſtow, after he had cropt its richeſt flower, during my ſuſpenſion of life, and abilities to guard it.

Here, according to the rule laid down, I ſhould ſtop; but I am ſo much in motion, that I could not if I would. I ſhall only add, however, that I got home without the leaſt diſcovery, or ſuſpicion of what had happened. I met my young raviſher ſeveral times after, whom I now paſſionately loved, and who, though not of age to claim a ſmall but independent fortune, would have married me; but as the accidents that prevented it, and their conſequences which threw me on the public, contain matter too moving and ſerious to introduce at preſent, I cut ſhort here.

Louiſa, the brunette whom I mentioned at firſt, now took her turn to treat the company with her hiſtory. I have already hinted to you the graces of her perſon, than which nothing could be more exquiſitely touching; I repeat touching, as a juſt diſtinction from ſtriking, which is ever a leſs laſting effect, and more generally belongs to the fair complexions; but leaving that deciſion

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to every one's taſte, I proceed to give you *Louiſa*'s narrative, as follows.

According to my practical maxims of life, I ought to boaſt of my birth, ſince I owe it to pure love, without marriage; but this I know, it was ſcarce poſſible to inherit a ſtronger propenſity to that cauſe of my being, than I did: I was the rare production of the firſt eſſay of a journeyman cabinet-maker, on his maſter's maid; the conſequence of which was a big-belly, and the loſs of her place. He was not in circumſtances to do much for her; and yet, after all this blemiſh, ſhe found means, after ſhe had dropt her burthen, and diſpoſed of me at a poor relation's in the country, to repair it by marrying a paſtry-cook here in *London*, in thriving buſineſs; on whom ſhe ſoon, under favour of the compleat aſcendant he had given her over him, paſſed me for a child ſhe had by her firſt huſband. I had, on that footing been taken home, and was not ſix years old when this father-in-law died, and left my mother in tolerable circumſtances, and without any children by him. As to my natural father, he had betaken himſelf to the ſea; where, when the truth of things came out, I was told that he died, not immenſely rich you may think, ſince he was no more than a common ſailor. As I grew up, under the eye of my mother, who kept on the buſineſs, I could not but ſee in her ſevere watchfulneſs, the marks of a ſlip, which ſhe did not care ſhould be hereditary; but we no more chooſe our paſſions than our features or complexion, and the bent of mine was

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ſo ſtrong to the forbidden pleaſure, that it got the better, at length, of all her care and precaution. I was ſcarce twelve years old, before that part of me which ſhe wanted ſo much to keep out of harms way, made me feel its impatience to be taken notice of, and come into play: already had it put forth the ſigns of forwardneſs in the ſprout of a ſoft down over it, which had often flattered, and I might alſo ſay, grown under my conſtant touch, and viſitation: ſo pleaſed was I with what I took to be a kind of title to womanhood, that ſtate I pined to be entered off, for the pleaſures I conceived were annexed to it: and now the growing importance of that part to me, and the new ſenſations in it, demoliſhed at once all my girliſh play-things and amuſements: nature now pointed me ſtrongly to more ſolid diverſions, while all the ſtings of deſire ſettled ſo fiercely in that little centre of them, that I could not miſtake the ſpot I wanted a play-fellow in.

I now ſhunned all company in which there were no hopes of coming at the object of my longings, and uſed to ſhut myſelf up, to indulge in ſolitude ſome tender meditation on the pleaſures, I ſtrongly perceived the overture of, feeling and examining what nature aſſured me muſt be the choſen avenue, the gates for the unknown bliſs to enter at, that I panted after.

But theſe meditations only encreaſed my diſorder, and blew the fire that conſumed me. It was yet worſe when yielding at length to the inſupportable irritations of the little fairy charm that tormented

tormented me; I ſearched it with my fingers, teazing it to no end. Sometimes, in the furious excitations of deſire, I threw myſelf on my bed, ſpread my thighs abroad, and lay as it were expecting the longed-for relief, till finding my illuſion, I ſhut and ſqueezed them together again, burning and fretting. In ſhort, this deviliſh thing, with its impetuous girds and itching fires, led me ſuch a life, that I could neither, night or day, be at peace with it or myſelf. In time, however, I thought I had gained a prodigious prize, when figuring to myſelf, that my fingers were ſomething of the ſhape of what I pined for, I worked my way in for one of them with great agitation and delight; yet not without pain too did I deflour myſelf as far as it could reach; proceeding with ſuch a fury of paſſion, in this ſolitary and laſt ſhift of pleaſure, as extended me at length breathleſs on the bed, in an amorous melting trance.

But frequency of uſe dulling the ſenſation, I ſoon began to perceive that this finger-work was but a paultry ſhallow expedient, that went but a little way to relieve me, and rather raiſed more flame than its dry inſignificant titilation could rightly appeaſe.

Man alone, I almoſt inſtinctively knew, as well as by what I had induſtriouſly picked up at weddings and chriſtenings, was poſſeſſed of the only very remedy that could reduce this rebellious diſorder; but watched, and overlooked as I was, how to come at it, was the point, and that to

to all appearance, an invincible one: not that I did not rack my brains and invention how at once to elude my mother's vigilance, and procure myſelf the ſatisfaction of my impetuous curioſity, and longings for this mighty and untaſted pleaſure. At length, however, a ſingular chance did at once the work of a long courſe of alertneſs. One day that we had dined at an acquaintance's over the way, together with a gentlewoman-lodger that occupied the firſt floor of our houſe, there ſtarted an indiſpenſible neceſſity for my mother's going down to *Greenwich* to accompany her: the party was ſettled, when I do not know what genius whiſpered me to plead a head-ach that I certainly had not, againſt my being included in a jaunt that I had not the leaſt reliſh for: the pretext however paſſed, and my mother, with much reluctance, prevailed with herſelf to go without me; but took particular care to ſee me ſafe home, where ſhe conſigned me into the hands of an old truſty maid-ſervant who ſerved in the ſhop, for we had not a male creature in the houſe.

As ſoon as ſhe was gone, I told the maid I would go up and lie down on our lodger's bed, mine not being made, with a charge to her at the ſame time not to diſturb me, as it was only reſt I wanted. This injunction probably proved of eminent ſervice to me. As ſoon as I was got into the bed-chamber, I unlaced my ſtays, and threw myſelf on the out-ſide of the bed cloaths in all the looſeſt undreſs. Here I gave myſelf up to the old

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inſipid privy ſhifts of ſelf-viewing, ſelf-touching, ſelf-enjoying, *in fine* to all the means of *ſelf-knowledge* I could deviſe, in ſearch of the pleaſures that fled before me, and tantalized me with that unknown ſomething that was out of my reach; thus all only ſerved to enflame myſelf, and to provoke violently my deſires, whilſt the one thing needful to their ſatisfaction was not at hand, and I could have bit my fingers for repreſenting it ſo ill. After then wearying and fatiguing myſelf, with graſping of ſhadows, whilſt that more ſenſible part of me diſdained to content itſelf with leſs than realities, the ſtrong yearnings, the urgent ſtruggles of nature towards the melting relief, and the extreme ſelf-agitations I had uſed to come at it, had wearied and thrown me into a kind of unquiet ſleep, for if I toſſed and threw about my limbs in proportion to the diſtraction of my dreams, as I had reaſon to believe I did, a by-ſtander could not have helped ſeeing all for love: and one there was, it ſeems; for waking out of my very ſhort ſlumber, I found my hand locked in that of a young man, who was kneeling at my bed-ſide, and begging my pardon for his boldneſs, but that being ſon to the lady to whom this bed-chamber, he knew, belonged, he had ſlipped by the ſervant of the ſhop, as he ſuppoſed, unperceived; when finding me aſleep, his firſt ideas were to withdraw; but that he had been fixed and detained there by a power he could better account for, than reſiſt. What ſhall I ſay? my emotions of fear and ſurprize, were inſtantly ſubdued by thoſe

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of the pleaſure I beſpoke in great preſence of mind from the turn this adventure might take: he ſeemed to me no other than a pitying angel, dropt out of the clouds; for he was young and perfectly handſome, which was more than even I had aſked for; *man*, in general, being all that my utmoſt deſires had pointed at. I thought then I could not put too much encouragement into my eyes and voice; I regretted no leading advances: no matter for his after-opinion of my forwardneſs, ſo it might bring him to the point of anſwering my preſſing demands of preſent eaſe; it was not now with his thoughts, but his actions, that my buſineſs immediately lay. I raiſed then my head, and told him in a ſoft tone that tended to preſcribe the ſame key to him, that his mama was gone out, and would not return till late at night: which I thought no bad hint; but, as it proved, I had nothing of a novice to deal with: the impreſſions I had made on him, from the diſcoveries I had betrayed of my perſon in the diſordered motions of it, during his view of me aſleep, had, as he afterwards told me, ſo fixed, and charmingly prepared him, that, had I known his diſpoſitions, I had much more to hope from his violence, than to fear from his reſpect; and even leſs than the extreme tenderneſs which I threw into my voice, and eyes, would have ſerved to encourage him to make the moſt of the opportunity. Finding then that his kiſſes imprinted on my hand were taken as tamely as he could wiſh, he roſe to my lips, and glewing his to them, made me ſo faint with over-

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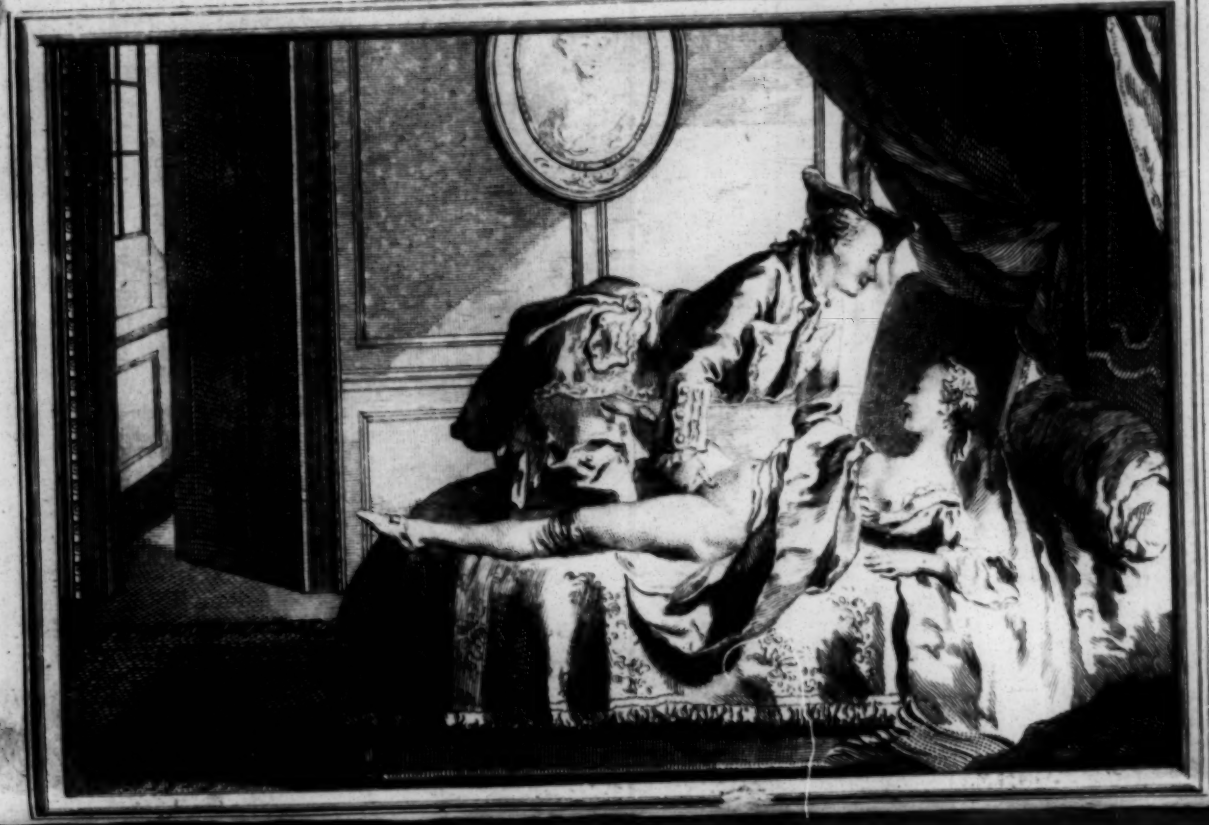

overcoming joy, and pleaſure, that I fell back, and he with me, in courſe, on the bed, upon which I had, by inſenſibly ſhifting from the ſide to near the middle, invitingly made room for him: He is now lain down by me, and the minutes being too precious to conſume in untimely ceremony, or dalliance, my youth proceeds immediately to thoſe extremities, which all my looks, flushings, and palpitations had aſſured him he might attempt without the fear of repulſe: thoſe rogues, the men, read us admirably on theſe occaſions! I lay then at length panting for the imminent attack, with wiſhes far beyond my fears, and for which it was ſcarce poſſible for a girl barely thirteen, but tall and well grown, to have better diſpoſitions. He threw up my petticoat and ſhift, whilſt my thighs were by an inſtinct of nature unfolded to their beſt; and my deſires had ſo thoroughly deſtroyed all modeſty in me, that even their being now naked, and all laid open to him, was part of the prelude that pleaſure deepened my bluſhes at, more than ſhame; but when his hand, and touches, naturally attracted to their center, made me feel all their wantonneſs, and warmth in, and round it, oh! how immenſely different a ſenſe of things did I perceive there, than when under my own inſipid handling; and now his waiſtcoat was unbuttoned, and the confinement of the breeches burſt through, when out ſtarting to view the amazing, pleaſing object of all my wiſhes, all my dreams, all my love, the kind-member indeed! I gazed at, I devoured it,

length and breadth with my eyes intently directed to it, till his getting upon me, and placing it between my thighs, took from me the enjoyment of its ſight, to give me a far more grateful one, in its touch, in that part, where its touch is ſo exquiſitely affecting: applying it then to the minute opening, for ſuch at that age it certainly was, I met with too much good will, I felt with too great a rapture of pleaſure the firſt inſertion of it, to heed much the pain that followed: I thought nothing too dear to pay for this the richeſt treat of the ſenſes; ſo that, ſplit up, torn, bleeding, mangled, I was ſtill ſuperiorly pleaſed, and hugged the author of all this delicious ruin: but when ſoon after he made his ſecond attack, ſore, and red-raw as every thing was, the ſmart was ſoon put away by the ſovereign cordial; all my ſoft complainings were ſilenced, and the pain melting faſt away into pleaſure, I abandoned myſelf over to all its tranſports, and gave it the full poſſeſſion of my whole body and ſoul; for now all thought was at an end with me; I lived but in what I felt only: and who could deſcribe thoſe feelings, thoſe agitations, yet exalted by the charm of their novelty, and ſurprize? when that part of me which had ſo long hungered and thirſted for the dear morſel that now ſo delightfully crammed it, forced all my vital ſenſations to fix their home there, during the ſtay of my new and beloved gueſt; who too ſoon paid me for his hearty welcome, in a diſſolvent, richer far than that I have heard of ſome queen treating

her

her paramour with, in liquified pearl, and raviſhingly poured into me, where now myſelf too much melted to give it a dry reception, I hailed it with the warmeſt confluence of ſweets on my ſide, amidſt all thoſe extatic raptures, not unfamiliar I preſume to this good company. Thus however, I arrived at the very top of all my wiſhes, by an accident unexpected indeed, but not ſo wonderful: for this young gentleman was juſt arrived in town from college, and came familiarly to his mother at her apartment, where he had once before been, though, by mere chance, I had not ſeen him: ſo that we knew one another by hear-ſay only, and finding me ſtretched on his mother's bed, he readily concluded, from her deſcription, who it was——, the reſt you know. The affair had however no ruinous conſequences; the young gentleman eſcaping then, and many more times, undiſcovered; but the warmth of my conſtitution that made the pleaſures of love a kind of neceſſary of life to me; having betrayed me into indiſcretions fatal to my private fortune, I fell at length to the public, where it is probable I might have met with the worſt of ruin, if my fate had not thrown me into this ſafe and agreeable refuge.

Here *Louiſa* ended: and theſe little hiſtories having brought the time for the girls to retire, and to prepare for the revels of the evening, I ſtaid with Mrs. *Cole*, till *Emily* came and told us the company was met, and waited for us.

Mrs. *Cole* on this, taking me by the hand, with a ſmile of encouragement, led me up ſtairs, preceded by *Louiſa*, who was come to haſten us, and lighted us with two candles, one in each hand.

On the landing-place of the firſt pair of ſtairs, we were met by a young gentleman, extremely well dreſſed, and a very pretty figure, to whom I was to be indebted for the firſt eſſay of the pleaſures of the houſe. He ſaluted me with great gallantry, and handed me into the drawing room, the floor of which was over-ſpread with a Turky-carpet, and all its furniture voluptuouſly adapted to every demand of the moſt ſtudied luxury; now too it was by means of a profuſe illumination, enlivened by a light ſcarce inferior to, and perhaps more favourable to joy, more tenderly pleaſing, than that of broad ſun-ſhine.

On my entrance into the room, I had the ſatisfaction to hear a buz of approbation run through the whole company, which now conſiſted of four gentleman, including my particular, (this was the cant-term of the houſe for one's gallant for the time) the three young women, in a neat flowing diſhabil, the miſtreſs of the academy, and myſelf. I was welcomed and ſaluted by a kiſs all round, in which however it was eaſy to diſcover, in the ſuperior warmth of that of the men, the diſtinction of the ſexes.

Awed, and confounded as I was, at ſeeing myſelf ſurrounded, careſſed, and made court to by ſo many ſtrangers, I could not immediately familiarize

liarize myſelf to all that air of gaiety, and joy, which dictated their compliments, and animated their careſſes. They aſſured me that I was ſo perfectly to their taſte, as to have but one fault againſt me, which I might eaſily be cured of: and that was my modeſty: this, they obſerved, might paſs for a beauty the more with thoſe who wanted it for a heightener; but their maxim was, that it was an impertinent mixture, and daſhed the cup ſo as to ſpoil the ſincere draught of pleaſure: they conſidered it accordingly as their mortal enemy, and gave it no quarter wherever they met with it: this was a prologue not unworthy of the revels that enſued.

In the midſt of all the frolic and wantonneſſes, which this joyous band had preſently and all naturally run into, an elegant ſupper was ſerved in, and we ſat down to it, my ſpark elect placing himſelf next to me, and the other couples without order, or ceremony. The delicate cheer, and good wine, ſoon baniſhed all reſerve; the converſation grew as lively as could be wiſhed, without taking too looſe a turn: theſe profeſſors of pleaſure knew too well, to ſtale the impreſſions of it, or evaporate the imagination in words, before the time of action. Kiſſes however were ſnatched at times, or where a handkerchief round the neck interpoſed its feeble barrier, it was not extremely reſpected: the hands of the men went to work with their uſual petulance, till the provocations on both ſides roſe to ſuch a pitch, that my particular's propoſal for beginning the country

dances was received with inſtant aſſent: for, as he laughingly added, he fancied the inſtruments were in tune. This was a ſignal for preparation, that the complaiſant Mrs. *Cole*, who underſtood life, took for her cue of diſappearing, no longer ſo fit for perſonal ſervice herſelf, and content with having ſettled the order of battle, ſhe left us the field to fight it out at diſcretion.

As ſoon as ſhe was gone, the table was removed from the middle, and became a ſide-board; a couch was brought into its place, of which when I whiſperingly enquired the reaſon of my particular, he told me, that as it was chiefly on my account that this convention was met, the parties intended at once to humour their taſte of variety in pleaſures, and by an open public enjoyment, to ſee me broke of any taint of reſerve or modeſty, which they looked on as the poiſon of joy: that though they occaſionally preached pleaſure, and lived up to the text, they did not enthuſiaſtically ſet up for its miſſionaries, and only indulged themſelves in the delights of a practical inſtruction of all the pretty women they liked well enough to beſtow it upon, and fell properly in the way of it; but that as ſuch a propoſal might be too violent, too ſhocking for a young beginner; the older ſtanders were to ſet an example, which he hoped I would not be averſe to follow, ſince it was to him I was devolved in favour of the firſt experiment; but that ſtill I was perfectly at my liberty to refuſe the party, which being

being in its nature one of pleaſure, ſuppoſed an excluſion of all force or conſtraint.

My countenance expreſſed, no doubt, my ſurpriſe, as my ſilence did my acquieſcence. I was now embarked, and thoroughly determined on any voyage the company would take me on.

The firſt that ſtood up, to open the ball, were a cornet of horſe, and that ſweeteſt of olive-beauties, the ſoft and amorous *Louiſa*. He led her to the couch, "nothing loth," on which he gave her the fall; and extended her at her length with an air of roughneſs and vigour, reliſhing high of amorous eagerneſs and impatience. The girl ſpreading herſelf to the beſt advantage, with her head upon the pillow, was ſo concentered in what ſhe was about, that our preſence ſeemed the leaſt of her care or concern. Her petticoats thrown up with her ſhift, diſcovered to the company the fineſt turned legs and thighs that could be imagined, and in a broad diſplay, that gave us a full view of that delicious cleft of fleſh, into which the pleaſingly hair-grown mount over it parted, and preſented a moſt inviting entrance, between two cloſe ledges, delicately ſoft and pouting. Her gallant was now ready, having diſincumbered himſelf from his cloaths overloaded with lace, and preſently his ſhirt removed, ſhewed us his forces in high plight, alert, and ready for action: but giving us no time to conſider dimenſions, and proving the ſtiffneſs of his weapon, by his impatience of delay, he threw himſelf inſtantly over his charming antagoniſt, who re-

ceived him as he puſhed at once dead at mark, like a heroine without flinching, for ſurely never was girl conſtitutionally truer to the taſte of joy, or ſincerer in the expreſſions of its ſenſations than ſhe was. We could obſerve the pleaſure lighten in her eyes as he introduced its plenipotentiary inſtrument into her, till at length, having indulged her its utmoſt reach, its irritations grew ſo violent, and gave her the ſpurs ſo furiouſly, that collected within herſelf, and loſt to every thing but the enjoyment of her favourite feelings, ſhe retorted his thruſts with a juſt concert of ſpringy heaves, keeping time ſo exactly with the moſt pathetic ſighs, that one might have numbered the ſtrokes in agitation by their diſtinct murmurs, whilſt her active limbs kept wreathing and intertwiſting with his in convulſive folds: then the turtle-billing kiſſes, and the poignant painleſs lovebites, which they both exchanged in a rage of delight, all conſpiring towards the melting period; it ſoon came on, when *Louiſa*, in the ravings of her pleaſure-frenſy, impotent of all reſtraint, cried out: "Oh Sir!——— "Good Sir!———pray do not ſpare me! ah! "ah!———I can no more." And all her accents now faultering into heart-fetched ſighs, ſhe cloſed her eyes in the ſweet death, in the inſtant of which ſhe was deliciouſly embalmed by an injection, of which we could eaſily ſee the ſigns, in the quiet, dying, languid poſture of her late ſo furious driver, who was ſtopped

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ped of a ſudden, breathing ſhort, panting; and for that time, giving up the ſpirit of pleaſure.

As ſoon as he was diſmounted, *Louiſa* ſprung up, ſhook her petticoats, and running up to me, gave me a kiſs, and drew me to the ſide-board, to which ſhe was herſelf handed by her gallant, where they made me pledge them in a glaſs of wine, and toaſt a droll health of *Louiſa*'s propoſal in high frolic, that of "the miraculous thing which wets where it tickles, and tickles where it wets."

By this time the ſecond couple was ready to enter the liſts, which were a young baronet, and that delicateſt of charmers, the winning tender *Harriet*. My gentle eſquire came to acquaint me with it, and brought me back to the ſcene of action.

And ſurely, never did one of her profeſſion accompany her diſpoſitions for the bare-faced part ſhe was engaged to play, with ſuch a peculiar grace of ſweetneſs, modeſty, and yielding coyneſs as ſhe did. All her air and motions breathed only unreſerved, unlimited complaiſance, without the leaſt mixture of impudence, or proſtitution. But what is yet more ſurpriſing, her ſpark elect, in the midſt of the diſſolution of a publick open enjoyment, doated on her to diſtraction, and had, by dint of love and ſentiments, touched her heart, though for a while the reſtraint of their engagement to the houſe, laid him under a kind of neceſſity of complying with an inſtitution which

which himſelf had had the greateſt ſhare in eſtabliſhing.

Harriet then was led to the vacant couch by her gallant, bluſhing as ſhe looked at me, and with eyes made to juſtify any thing, tenderly beſpeaking of me the moſt favourable conſtruction of the ſtep ſhe was thus irreſiſtibly drawn into.

Her lover, for ſuch he was, ſat her down at the foot of the couch, and paſſing his arms round her neck, preluded with a kiſs fervently applied to her lips, that viſibly gave her life and ſpirit to go through with the ſcene; and as he kiſſed, he gently inclined his head, till it fell back on a pillow diſpoſed to receive it, and leaning himſelf down all the way with her, at once countenanced and endeared her fall to her: there as if he had gueſſed our wiſhes, or meant to gratify at once his pleaſure and his pride, in being the maſter, by title of preſent poſſeſſion, of beauties delicate beyond imagination, he diſcovered her breaſts, to his own touch, and our common view; but oh! what delicious manuals of love-devotion! how intimitably fine-moulded! ſmall, round, firm, and excellently white: then the grain of their ſkin ſo ſoothing, ſo flattering to the touch! and their nipples, that crowned them the ſweeteſt buds of beauty! when he had feaſted his eyes with the touch and peruſal, feaſted his lips with kiſſes of the higheſt reliſh imprinted in thoſe all-delicious twin orbs, he proceeded downwards.

Her legs ſtill kept the ground; and now with the tendereſt attention not to ſhock, or alarm her

her too ſuddenly, he, by degrees, rather ſtole than rolled up her petticoats, at which, as if a ſignal had been given, *Louiſa* and *Emily* took hold of her legs, in pure wantonneſs, and yet in eaſe too, to her, kept them ſtretched wide abroad. Then lay expoſed, or to ſpeak more properly, diſplayed, the greateſt parade in nature of female charms. The whole company, who, except myſelf, had often ſeen them, ſeemed as much dazzled, ſurpriſed, and delighted, as any one could be who had now beheld them for the firſt time. Beauties ſo exceſſive could not but enjoy the privileges of eternal novelty. Her thighs were ſo exquiſitely faſhioned, that either more in, or more out of fleſh than they were, they would have declined from that point of perfection they preſented. But what infinitely enriched and adorned them, was the ſweet interſection, formed where they met, at the bottom of the ſmootheſt, roundeſt, whiteſt belly, by that central furrow which nature had ſunk there, between the ſoft relievo of two pouting ridges, and which in this girl was in perfect ſymmetry of delicacy and minature with the reſt of her frame: no! nothing in nature could be of a beautifuller cut: then the dark umbrage of the downy ſprig-moſs that over-arched it, beſtowed on the luxury of the landſcape, a touching warmth, a tender finiſhing, beyond the expreſſion of words, or even the paint of thought.

Her truly enamoured gallant, who had ſtood abſorbed and engroſſed by the pleaſure of the ſight, long enough to afford us time to feaſt ours, no

fear

fear of glutting! addreſſed himſelf at length to the materials of enjoyment, and lifting the linen veil that hung between us and his maſter-member of the revels, exhibited one whoſe eminent ſize proclaimed the owner a true woman's hero. He was beſides, in every other reſpect, an accompliſhed gentleman, and in the bloom and vigour of youth: ſtanding then between *Harriet*'s legs, which were ſupported by her two companions at their wideſt extenſion, with one hand he gently diſcloſed the lips of that luſcious mouth of nature, whilſt with the other, he ſtooped his mighty machine to its lure, from the heighth of its ſtiff ſtand-up towards his belly; the lips kept open by his fingers, received its broad ſhelving head of coral hue; and when he had neſtled it in, he hovered there a little, and the girls then delivered over to his hips, the agreeable office of ſupporting her thighs: and now, as if he meant to ſpin out his pleaſure, and give it the more play for its life, he paſſed up his inſtrument ſo ſlow, that we loſt ſight of it inch by inch, till at length it was wholly taken into the ſoft laboratory of love, and the moſſy mounts of each fairly met together. In the mean time, we could plainly mark the prodigious effect the progreſſions of this delightful energy wrought in this delicious girl, gradually heightening her beauty as they heightened her pleaſure. Her countenance, and whole frame, grew more animated; the faint bluſh of her cheeks gaining ground on the white, deepened into a florid vivid vermillion glow: her naturally brilliant eyes now

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ſparkled with tenfold luſtre: her languor was vaniſhed, and ſhe appeared quick ſpirited, and alive all over. He had now fixed, nailed, this tender creature with his home driven wedge, ſo that ſhe lay paſſive per force, and unable to ſtir, till beginning to play a ſtrain of arms againſt this vein of delicacy, as he urged the to-and-fro confriction; he awakened, rouzed, and touched her ſo to the heart, that, unable to contain herſelf, ſhe could not but reply to his motions, as briſkly as her nicety of frame would admit of, till the raging ſtings of the pleaſure, riſing towards the point, made her wild with the intolerable ſenſations of it, and ſhe now threw her legs and arms about at random, as ſhe lay loſt in the ſweet tranſport: which on his ſide again declared itſelf by quicker, eagerer thruſts, convulſive graſps, burning ſighs, ſwift laborious breathings, eyes darting humid fires; all faithful tokens of the imminent approaches of the laſt gaſp of joy: it came on at length: the baronet led the extaſy, which ſhe critically joined in, as ſhe felt the melting ſymptoms from him, in the nick of which, glewing more ardently than ever his lips to hers, with eyes lifted up in a trance, he ſhewed all the ſigns of that agony of bliſs being ſtrong upon him, in which he ſent his ſoul diſtilled in liquid ſweets, up the body of that charming creature, and gave her the finiſhing titillation; inly thrilled with which, we ſaw plainly, that ſhe anſwered it down with all the effuſion of ſpirit and matter ſhe was miſtreſs of, whilſt a general ſoft ſhudder ran through

all

all her limbs, which ſhe gave a ſtretch-out of, and lay motionleſs, breathleſs, dying with dear delight: and in the heighth of its expreſſion, ſhewing through the nearly cloſed lids of her eyes, juſt the edges of their black, the reſt being rolled ſtrongly upwards in her extaſy: then her ſweet mouth appeared languiſhingly open, with the tip of her tongue leaning negligently towards the lower range of her white teeth, whilſt the natural ruby-colour of her lips glowed with heightened life; was this a ſubject not to dwell upon? and accordingly her lover ſtill kept on her, with an abiding delectation, till compreſſed, ſqueezed, and diſtilled to the laſt drop, he ſlipped out at laſt, and took leave with one fervent kiſs, expreſſing ſatisfied deſires, but unextinguiſhed love.

As ſoon as he was off, I ran to her, and ſitting down on the couch by her, raiſed her head, which ſhe declined gently, and hung in my boſom, to hide her bluſhes and confuſion at what had paſt, till by degrees ſhe recompoſed herſelf, and accepted of a reſtorative glaſs of wine from my ſpark, who had left me to fetch it her, whilſt her own was re-adjuſting his affairs, and buttoning up, after which he led her, leaning languiſhingly upon him, to our ſtand of view round the couch.

And now *Emily*'s partner had taken her out for her ſhare in the dance, when this tranſcendently fair and ſweet-tempered creature readily ſtood up: and if a complexion to put the roſe and lily out of countenance, extreme pretty features, and that florid health and bloom for which the country

try-girls are ſo lovely, might paſs her for a beauty, ſhe certainly was one, and one of the moſt ſtriking of the fair ones.

Her gallant began firſt, as ſhe ſtood, to diſingage her breaſts, and reſtore them to the liberty of nature, from the eaſy confinement of no more than a pair of jumps; but on their coming out to view, we thought a new light was added to the room, ſo ſuperiorly ſhining was their whiteneſs; then they roſe in ſo happy a ſwell as to compoſe her a well-formed fullneſs of boſom, that had ſuch an effect on the eye as to ſeem fleſh hardening into marble, of which it emulated the poliſhed gloſs, and far ſurpaſſed even the whiteſt, in the life and luſtre of its colours, white veined with blue. Refrain who could from ſuch provoking enticements to it in reach? He touched her breaſts firſt lightly, when the gloſſy ſmoothneſs of the ſkin eluded his hand, and made it ſlip along the ſurface: he preſſed them, and the ſpringy fleſh that filled them, thus pitted by force, roſe again reboundingly with his hand, and on the inſtant effaced the dint of the preſſure: and alike indeed was the conſiſtence of all thoſe parts of her body throughout, where the fullneſs of fleſh compacts and conſtitutes all that fine firmneſs which the touch is ſo highly attached to. When he had thus largely pleaſed himſelf with this branch of dalliance, and delight, he truſſed up her petticoat and ſhift, in a wiſp to her waiſt, where being tucked in, ſhe ſtood fairly naked on every ſide: a bluſh at this over-ſpread her lovely face, and her

her eyes, downcaſt to the ground, ſeemed to beg for quarter, when ſhe had ſo great a right to triumph in all the treaſures of youth and beauty that ſhe now ſo victoriouſly diſplayed. Her legs were perfectly well ſhaped, and her thighs, which ſhe kept pretty cloſe, ſhewed ſo white, ſo round, ſo ſubſtantial, and abounding in firm fleſh, that nothing could offer a ſtronger recommendation to the luxury of the touch, which he accordingly did not fail to indulge himſelf in: then gently removing her hand, which in the firſt emotion of natural modeſty, ſhe had carried thither, he gave us rather a glimpſe than a view of that ſoft narrow chink, running its little length downwards, and hiding the remains of it between her thighs: but plain was to be ſeen the fringe of light-brown curls, in beauteous growth over it, that with their ſilky gloſs created a pleaſing variety from the ſurrounding white, whoſe luſtre too, their gentle embrowning ſhade conſiderably raiſed. Her ſpark then endeavoured, as ſhe ſtood, by diſcloſing her thighs, to gain us a compleater ſight of that central charm of attraction, but not obtaining it ſo conveniently in that attitude, he led her to the foot of the couch, and bringing to it one of the pillows, gently inclined her head down, ſo that as ſhe leaned with it over her croſſed hands, ſtraddling with her thighs wide ſpread, and jutting her body out, ſhe preſented a full back-view of her perſon, naked to her waiſt. Her poſteriors, plump, ſmooth, and prominent, formed luxuriant tracts of animated ſnow, that ſplendidly filled the

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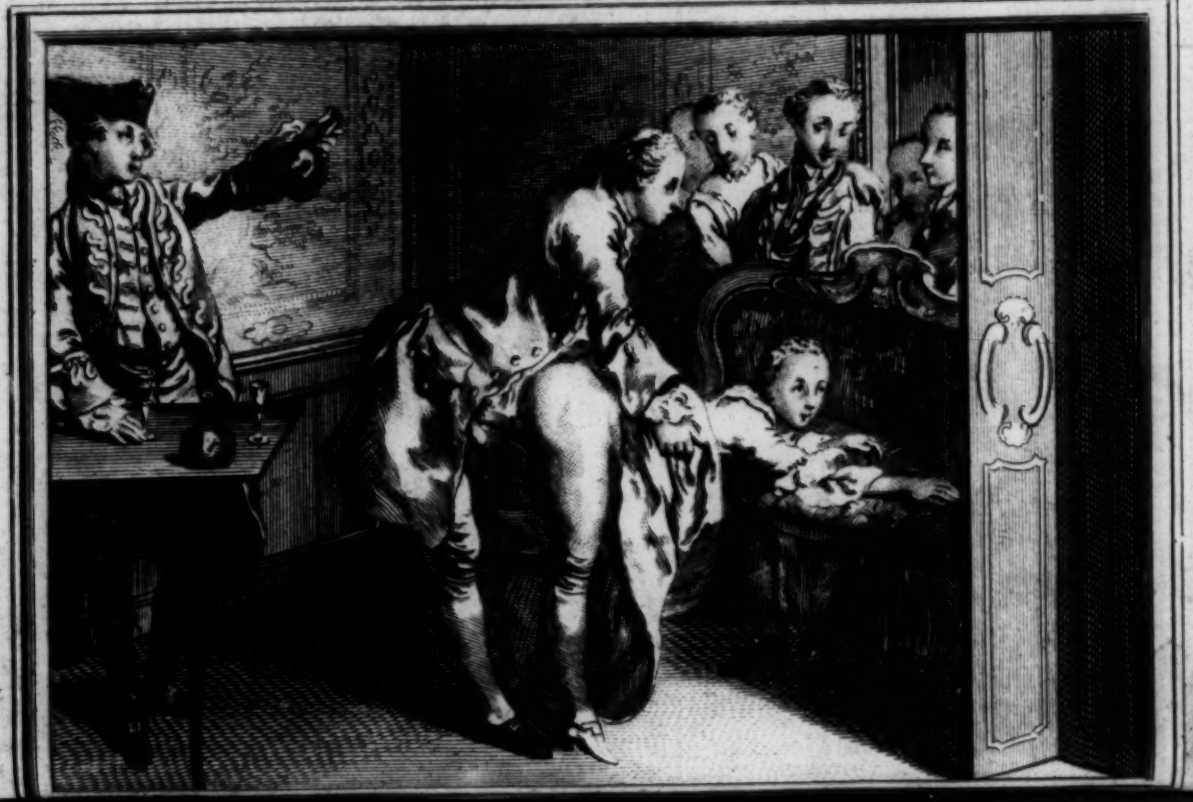

the eye, till it was commanded down the parting or ſeparation of thoſe exquiſitely white cliffs, by their narrow vale, and was there ſtopt, and attracted by the embowered bottom-cavity, that terminated this delightful viſto, and ſtood moderately gaping from the influence of her bended poſture, ſo that the agreeable interior red of the ſides of the orifice came into view, and with reſpect to the white that dazzled round it, gave ſomewhat the idea of a pink-ſlaſh in the gloſſieſt white ſattin. Her gallant, who was a gentleman about thirty, of an immenſe fortune, ſomewhat inclined to a fatneſs that was in no ſort diſpleaſing, improving the hint thus tendered him of this mode of enjoyment, after ſettling her well in this poſture and encouraging her with kiſſes and careſſes to ſtand him through, drew out his affair ready erected, and whoſe extreme length, rather diſproportioned to its breadth, was the more ſurpriſing, as that exceſs is not often the caſe of thoſe of his corpulent habit; making then the right and direct application, he drove it up to the hilt, while the round bulge of thoſe Turkiſh beauties of her's tallying with the hollow made by the bend of his belly and thighs, as they curved inwards, brought all thoſe parts, ſurely not undelightfully, into warm touch, and cloſe conjunction. His hands he kept paſſed round her body, and employed in toying with her inchanting breaſts: as ſoon too as ſhe felt him as home as he could reach, ſhe lifted her head a little from the pillow, and turning her neck, without much ſtraining, but

her cheeks glowing with the deepeſt ſcarlet, and a ſmile of the tendereſt ſatisfaction, met the kiſs he preſſed forward to give her, as they were thus cloſe joined together: when leaving him to purſue his delights, ſhe hid again her face and bluſhes, with her hands and pillow, and thus ſtood paſſively and as favourably too as ſhe could, whilſt he kept laying at her with repeated thruſts, and making the meeting fleſh on both ſides reſound again with the violence of them: then ever as he backened from her, we could ſee between them part of his long white-ſtaff foamingly in motion, till, as he went on again, and cloſed with her, the interpoſing hillocks took it out of ſight: ſometimes he took his hands from the ſemi-globes of her boſom, and transferred the preſſure of them to thoſe larger ones, the preſent ſubjects of his ſoft blockade, which he ſqueezed, graſped, and played with, till at length a purſuit of driving ſo hotly urged, brought on the height of the fit, with ſuch ſymptoms of overpowering pleaſure, that his fair partner became now neceſſary to ſupport him, panting, fainting, and dying as he diſcharged, which ſhe no ſooner felt the killing ſweetneſs of, than unable to keep her legs, and yielding to the mighty intoxication, ſhe reeled, and falling forward on the couch, made it a neceſſity for him, if he would preſerve the warm pleaſure-hold, to fall upon her, where they perfected, in a continued conjunction of body, and extatic flow, their ſcheme of joys for that time.

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As ſoon as he had diſengaged, the charming *Emily* got up, and we crouded round her with congratulations, and other officious little ſervices; for it is to be noted, that though all modeſty and reſerve were baniſhed the tranſaction of theſe pleaſures, good manners and politeneſs were inviolably obſerved: here was no groſs ribaldry, no offenſive or rude behaviour, or ungenerous reproaches to the girls for their compliance with the humours, and deſires of the men. On the contrary, nothing was wanting to ſooth, encourage, and ſoften the ſenſe of their condition to them. Men know not in general how much they deſtroy of their own pleaſure, when they break through the reſpect and tenderneſs due to our ſex, and even to thoſe of it who live only by pleaſing them. And this was a maxim perfectly well underſtood by theſe polite voluptuaries, theſe profound adepts in the great art and ſcience of pleaſure, who never ſhewed theſe votaries of theirs a more tender reſpect than at the time of thoſe exerciſes of their complaiſance, when they unlocked their treaſures of concealed beauty, and ſhewed out in the pride of their native charms, ever-more touching ſurely than when they parade it in the artificial ones of dreſs and ornament.

The frolic was now come round to me, and it being my turn of ſubſcription to the will and pleaſure of my particular elect, as well as that of the company, he came to me, and ſaluting me very tenderly, with a flattering eagerneſs, put me in mind of the compliances my preſence there au-

thorized the hopes of, and at the ſame time repeated to me, that if all this force of example had not ſurmounted any repugnance I might have to concur with the humours and deſires of the company, that though the play was beſpoke for my benefit, and great as his own private diſappointment might be, he would ſuffer any thing ſooner than be the inſtrument of impoſing a diſagreeable taſk on me.

To this I anſwered, without the leaſt heſitation, or mincing grimace, that had I not even contracted a kind of engagement to be at his diſpoſal without the leaſt reſerve, the example of ſuch agreeable companions would alone determine me, and that I was in no pain about any thing but my appearing to ſo great a diſadvantage after ſuch ſuperior beauties: and take notice, that I thought as I ſpoke. The frankneſs of the anſwer pleaſed them all: my particular was complimented on his acquiſition, and, by way of indirect flattery to me, openly envied.

Mrs. *Cole*, by the way, could not have given me a greater mark of her regard than in managing for me the choice of this young gentleman for my maſter of the ceremonies; for independent of his noble birth, and the great fortune he was heir to; his perſon was even uncommonly pleaſing, well ſhaped and tall; his face marked with the ſmall-pox, but no more than what added a grace of more manlineſs to features, rather turned to ſoftneſs, and delicacy, was marvellouſly enlivened by eyes which were of the cleareſt ſparkling

ling black; in ſhort, he was one whom any woman would, in the familiar ſtyle, readily call a very pretty fellow,

I was now handed by him to the cockpit of our match, where, as I was dreſſed in nothing but a white morning gown, he vouchſafed to play the male-*Abigal* on the occaſion, and ſpared me the confuſion that would have attended the forwardneſs of undreſſing myſelf: my gown then was looſened in a trice, and I diveſted of it: my ſtays next offered an obſtacle which quickly gave way, *Louiſa* very readily furniſhed a pair of ſciſſars to cut the lace: off went that ſhell; and dropping my upper-coat, I was now reduced to my under-one, and my ſhift, the open boſom of which gave the hands, and eyes all the liberty they could wiſh: here I imagined the ſtripping was to ſtop; but I reckoned ſhort: my ſpark, at the deſire of the reſt, tenderly begged, that I would not ſuffer the ſmall remains of a covering to rob them of a full view of my whole perſon: and for me, who was too flexibly obſequious to diſpute any point with them, and who conſidered the little more that remained as very immaterial, I readily aſſented to whatever he pleaſed. In an inſtant, then, my under petticoat was untied, and at my feet, and my ſhift drawn over my head, ſo that my cap, ſlightly faſtened, came off with it, and brought all my hair down (of which be it again remembered without vanity, that I had a very fine head) in looſe diſorderly ringlets, over my neck and ſhoulders, to the no unfavourable ſet-off of my ſkin.

I now ſtood before my judges in all the truth of nature, to whom I could not appear a very diſagreeable figure, if you pleaſe to recollect what I have before ſaid of my perſon, which time, that at certain periods of life, robs us every inſtant of our charms, had, at that of mine, then greatly improved into full and open bloom, for I wanted ſome months of eighteen: my breaſts, which in the ſtate of nudity are ever capital points, now in no more than grateful plenitude, maintained a firmneſs and ſteady independence on any ſtay or ſupport, and dared and invited the teſt of the touch. Then I was as tall, as ſlim-ſhaped as could be conſiſtent with all that juicy plumpneſs of fleſh ever the moſt grateful to the ſenſes of ſight and touch, which I owed to the health and youth of my conſtitution. I had not, however, ſo thoroughly renounced all innate ſhame, as not to ſuffer great confuſion at the ſtate I ſaw myſelf in: but the whole troop round me, men and women, relieved me with every mark of applauſe and ſatisfaction, every flattering attention to raiſe, and inſpire me with even ſentiments of pride on the figure I made, which my friend gallantly proteſted, infinitely out-ſhone all other *birth-day* finery whatever, ſo that had I leave to ſet down, for ſincere, all the compliments theſe connoiſſeurs over-whelmed me with upon this occaſion, I might flatter myſelf with having paſſed my examination, with approbation of the learned.

My friend however, who for this time had alone the diſpoſal of me, humoured their curioſity,

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ſity, and perhaps his own, ſo far that he placed me in all the variety of poſtures and lights imaginable, pointing out every beauty under every aſpect of it, not without ſuch parentheſes of kiſſes, ſuch inflammatory liberties of his roving hands, as made all ſhame fly before them, and a bluſhing glow give place to a warmer one of deſire, which led me even to find ſome reliſh in the preſent ſcene.

But in this general ſurvey, you may be ſure, the moſt material ſpot of me was not excuſed the ſtricteſt viſitation: nor was it but agreed, that I had not the leaſt reaſon to be diffident of paſſing even for a maid, on occaſion; ſo inconſiderable a flaw had my preceding adventures created there, and ſo ſoon had the blemiſh of an over-ſtretch been repaired and worn out, at my age, and in my naturally ſmall make in that part.

Now, whether my partner had exhauſted all the modes of regaling the touch, or ſight, or whether he was now ungovernably wound up to ſtrike, I know not; but briſkly throwing off his cloaths, the prodigious heat bred by a cloſe room, a great fire, numerous candles, and even the inflammatory warmth of theſe ſcenes, induced him to lay aſide his ſhirt too, when his breeches, before looſened, now gave up their contents to view, and ſhewed in front, the enemy I had to engage with, ſtiffly bearing up the port of his head unhooded, and glowing red: then I plainly ſaw what I had to truſt to: it was one of thoſe juſt true-ſized inſtruments of which the maſters

have a better command, than the more unweildy, inordinate ſized ones are generally under. Straining me then cloſe to his boſom, as he ſtood up fore-right againſt me, and applying to the obvious nich its peculiar idol, he aimed at inſerting it, which, as I forwardly favoured, he effected at once by canting up my thighs over his naked hips, and made me receive every inch, and cloſe home; ſo that ſtuck upon the pleaſure-pivot, and clinging round his neck, in which and his hair, I hid my face burningly fluſhing with my preſent feelings as much as with ſhame, my boſom glewed to his, he carried me once round the couch, on which he then, without quitting the middle-faſtneſs, or diſchannelling, laid me down, and begun the pleaſure-griſt, but ſo provokingly prediſpoſed and primed as we were, by all the moving ſights of the night, our imagination was too much heated, not to melt us of the ſooneſt, and accordingly I no ſooner felt the warm ſpray darted up my inwards from him; but I was punctually on flow to ſhare the momentary extaſy; but I had yet greater reaſon to boaſt of our harmony; for finding that all the flames of deſire were not yet quenched within me: but that rather, like wetted coals, I glowed the fiercer for this ſprinkling: my hot-mettled ſpark ſympathyſing with me, and loaded for a double-fire, recontinued the ſweet battery with undying vigour: greatly pleaſed at which, I gratefully endeavoured to accommodate all my motions to his beſt advantage and delight; kiſſes, ſqueezes, tender murmurs,

murmurs, all came into play, till our joys growing more turbulent and riotous, threw us into a fond diſorder, and as they raged to a point, bore us far from ourſelves into an ocean of boundleſs pleaſures, into which we both plunged together in a tranſport of taſte: now all the impreſſions of burning deſire, from the lively ſcenes I had been ſpectatreſs of, ripened by the heat of this exerciſe, and collecting to a head, throbbed and agitated me with inſupportable irritations: I perfectly fevered and maddened with their exceſs: I did not now enjoy a calm of reaſon enough to perceive, but I, extatically indeed! *felt* the policy and power of ſuch rare and exquiſite provocatives as the examples of the night had proved towards thus exalting our pleaſures: which, with great joy, I ſenſibly found my gallant ſhared in, by his nervous and home expreſſions of it: his eyes flaſhing eloquent flames, his action infuriated with the ſtings of it, all conſpiring to raiſe my delight by aſſuring me of his; lifted then to the utmoſt pitch of joy that human life can bear undeſtroyed by exceſs, I touched that ſweetly critical point, when ſcarce prevented by the ſpermatic injection from my partner ſpurting liquid fire up to my vitals, I diſſolved, and breaking out into a deep drawn ſigh, ſent my whole ſenſitive ſoul down to that paſſage where eſcape was denied it, by its being ſo deliciouſly plugged and choaked up. Thus we lay a few bliſsful inſtants, overpowered, ſtill, and languid; till, as the ſenſe of pleaſure ſtagnated, we recovered from our trance,

trance, and he ſlipt out of me, not, however, before he had proteſted his extreme ſatisfaction, by the tendereſt kiſs and embrace, as well as by the moſt cordial expreſſions.

The company who had ſtood round us in a profound ſilence, when all was over, helped me to hurry on my cloaths in an inſtant, and complimented me on the ſincere homage they could not eſcape obſerving had been done (as they termed it) to the ſovereignty of my charms, in my receiving a double payment of tribute at one juncture: but my partner, now dreſſed again, ſignalized, above all, a fondneſs unabated by the circumſtance of recent enjoyment: the girls too kiſſed and embraced me, aſſuring me, that for that time, or indeed any other, unleſs I pleaſed, I was to go through no farther public trials, and that I was now conſummately initiated, and one of them.

As it was an inviolable law for every gallant to keep to his partner, for the night eſpecially, and even till he relinquiſhed poſſeſſion over to the community, in order to preſerve a pleaſing property, and to avoid the diſguſts and indelicacy of another arrangement, the company, after a ſhort refection of biſcuits and wine, tea, and chocolate, ſerved in at, now, about one in the morning, broke up, and went off in pairs. Mrs. *Cole* had prepared my ſpark and me an occaſional field-bed, to which we retired, and there ended the night in one continued ſtrain of pleaſure, ſprightly and uncloyed enough for us not to have formed

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one wiſh for its ever knowing an end. In the morning, after a reſtorative breakfaſt in bed, he got up, and with very tender aſſurances of a particular regard for me, left me to the compoſure and refreſhment of a ſweet ſlumber; waking out of which, and getting up to dreſs before Mrs. *Cole* ſhould come in, I found in one of my pockets a purſe of guineas, which he had ſlipt there; and juſt as I was muſing on a liberality I had certainly not expected, Mrs. *Cole* came in, to whom I immediately communicated the preſent, and naturally offered her whatever ſhare ſhe pleaſed; but aſſuring me that the gentleman had very nobly rewarded her, ſhe would on no terms, no entreaties, no ſhape I could put it in, receive any part of it. Her denial, ſhe obſerved, was not affectation or grimace, and proceeded to read me ſuch admirable leſſons on the œconomy of my perſon and my purſe, as I became amply paid for my *general* attention and conformity to, in the courſe of my acquaintance with the town. After which, changing the diſcourſe, ſhe fell on the pleaſures of the preceding night, where I learned, without much ſurpriſe, as I began to enter into her character, that ſhe had ſeen every thing that paſſed, from a convenient place, managed ſolely for that purpoſe, and of which ſhe readily made me the confidante.

She had ſcarce finiſhed with this, when the little troop of love, the girls my companions, broke in, and renewed their compliments and careſſes; I obſerved with pleaſure, that the fa-

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tigues and exerciſes of the night, had not uſurped in the leaſt on the life of the complexion, or the freſhneſs of their bloom: this I found by their confeſſion, was owing to the management and advice of our rare directreſs. They went down then to figure it, as uſual, in the ſhop; whilſt I repaired to my lodgings; where I employed myſelf till I returned to dinner at Mrs. *Cole*'s.

Here I ſtaid, in conſtant amuſement, with one or other of theſe charming girls, till about five in the evening: when ſeized with a ſudden drowſy fit, I was prevailed on to go up and doze it off on *Harriet*'s bed, who left me on it to my repoſe. There then I lay down in my cloaths, and fell faſt aſleep, and had now enjoyed by gueſs, about an hour's reſt; when I was pleaſingly diſturbed by my new and favourite gallant, who enquiring for me, was readily directed where to find me. Coming then into my chamber, and ſeeing me lie alone, with my face turned from the light towards the inſide of the bed, he, without more ado, juſt ſlipped off his breeches, for the greater eaſe and enjoyment of the naked touch; and ſoftly turning up my petticoat and ſhift behind, open'd himſelf the proſpect of the back avenue to the genial ſeat of pleaſure; where as I lay at my ſide-length, inclining rather face downward, I appeared full fair, and liable to be entered: laying himſelf then gently down by me, he inveſted me behind, and giving me to feel the warmth of his body, as he applied his thighs and belly cloſe to me, and the endeavours of that machine,

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chine, whoſe touch has ſomething ſo exquiſitely ſingular in it, to make its way good into me, I waked, pretty much ſtartled at firſt; but ſeeing who it was, diſpoſed myſelf to turn to him, when he gave me a kiſs; and deſiring me to keep my poſture, juſt lifted up my upper thigh, and aſcertaining the right opening, ſoon drove it up to the fartheſt; ſatisfied with which, and ſolacing himſelf with lying ſo cloſe in full touch of fleſh in thoſe parts, he ſuſpended all motion, and thus ſteeped in pleaſure, kept me lying on my ſide, in to him, ſpoon-faſhion, as he termed it, from the ſnug indent of the back-part of my thighs, and all upwards, into the ſpace of the bending between his thighs and belly; till after ſome time, that reſtleſs, and turbulent inmate, impatient by nature of longer quiet, urged him to action, which now proſecuting, with all the uſual train of toying, kiſſing, and the like, ended at length in the liquid proof on both ſides, that we had not been exhauſted, or at leaſt were quickly recruited of laſt night's draughts of pleaſure on us.

With this noble and agreeable youth, lived I in perfect joy and conſtancy: he was full bent on keeping me to himſelf, for the honey-month at leaſt; but his ſtay in *London* was not even ſo long, his father, who had a great poſt in *Ireland*, taking him abruptly with him, on his repairing thither. Yet even then I was near keeping hold of his affection, and perſon, for he had propoſed, and I had conſented, to follow his order to go to

Ireland

Ireland after him, as ſoon as he ſhould be ſettled there; but meeting with an agreeable and advantageous match in that kingdom, he choſe the wiſer part, and forbore ſending for me, but at the ſame time took care that I ſhould receive a magnificent preſent, which did not however compenſate for all my deep regret on my loſs of him.

This event alſo created a chaſm in our little ſociety, which Mrs. *Cole*, on the foot of her uſual caution, was in no haſte to fill up: but then it redoubled her attention to procure me in the advantages of the traffic for a counterfeit maidenhead, ſome conſolation for the ſort of widowhood I had been left in, and this was a ſcheme ſhe had never loſt proſpect of, and only waited for a proper perſon to bring it to bear with.

But I was, it ſeems, fated to be my own caterer in this, as I had been in my firſt trial of the market.

I had now paſſed near a month in the enjoyment of all the pleaſures of familiarity and ſociety with my companions, whoſe particular favourites, (the Baronet excepted, who ſoon after took *Harriet* home) had all, on the terms of community eſtabliſhed in the houſe, ſollicited the gratification of their taſte for variety in my embraces; but I had with the utmoſt art and addreſs, on various pretexts, eluded their purſuit, without giving them cauſe to complain: and this reſerve I uſed neither out of diſlike to them, or diſguſt of the thing, but my true reaſon was my attach-

attachment to my own, and my tenderneſs of invading the choice of my companions, who outwardly exempt as they ſeemed, from jealouſy, could not but in ſecret like me the better for the regard I had for, without making a merit of it to, them. Thus eaſy, and beloved by the whole family did I go on, when one day, that, about five in the afternoon, I ſtepped over to a fruiterer's ſhop, in *Covent-Garden*, to pick ſome table-fruit for myſelf and the young women, I met with the following adventure.

Whilſt I was chaffering for the fruit I wanted, I obſerved myſelf followed by a young gentleman, whoſe rich dreſs firſt attracted my notice; for the reſt, he had nothing remarkable in his perſon, except that he was pale, thin-made, and ventured himſelf upon legs rather of the ſlendereſt. Eaſy was it to perceive, without ſeeming to perceive it, that it was me he wanted to be at, by his making a full ſet at, and keeping his eyes fixed on me, till he came to the ſame baſket that I ſtood at, and cheapening, or rather giving the firſt price aſked for the fruit, began his approaches. Now moſt certainly I was not at all out of figure to paſs for a modeſt girl. I had neither the feathers, nor *fumet* of a tawdry town-miſs; a ſtraw hat, a white gown, clean linen, and above all, a certain natural and eaſy air of modeſty (which the appearances of never forſook me, even on thoſe occaſions that I moſt broke in upon it, in practice) were all ſigns that gave him no opening to conjecture my condition. He ſpoke to me, and this

this addreſs from a ſtranger throwing a bluſh into my cheeks, that ſtill ſet him wider of the truth, I anſwered him, with an awkwardneſs and confuſion the more apt to impoſe, as there was really a mixture of the genuine in them. But when proceeding on the foot of having broke the ice, to join diſcourſe, he went into other leading queſtions, I put ſo much innocence, ſimplicity, and even childiſhneſs, into my anſwers, that on no better foundation, liking my perſon as he did, I will anſwer for it, that he would have been ſworn for my modeſty. There is, in ſhort, in the men, when once they are caught, by the eye eſpecially, a fund of cullibility, that their lordly wiſdom little dreams of, and in virtue of which the moſt ſagacious of them are ſeen ſo often our dupes. Among other queries which he put to me, one was, whether I was married, or no? I replied, that I was too young, to think of that this many a year. To that of my age, I anſwered, and ſunk a year upon him, paſſing myſelf for not ſeventeen. As to my way of life, I told him I had ſerved an apprenticeſhip to a millener in *Preſton*, and was come to town after a relation that I found on my arrival was dead, and I now lived journeywoman to a millener in town. That laſt article indeed was not much on the ſide of what I pretended to paſs for; but paſs it did under favour of the growing paſſion I had inſpired him with. After he had next got out of me, very dextrouſly as he thought, what I had no ſort of deſign to make a reſerve of, my own, my miſtreſs's name, and

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and place of abode, he loaded me with fruit, all the rareſt and deareſt he could pick out, and ſent me home pondering on what might be the conſequence of this adventure.

As ſoon then as I came to Mrs. *Cole*'s I related to her all that had paſt, on which ſhe very judiciouſly concluded, that, if he did not come after me, there was no harm done, and that, if he did, as her preſage ſuggeſted to her he would, his character, and his views ſhould be well ſifted, ſo as to know whether the game was worth the ſpringes; that in the mean time nothing was eaſier than my part in it, ſince no more reſted on me than to follow her cue and prompterſhip throughout, to the laſt act.

The next morning, after an evening ſpent on his ſide, as we afterwards learnt, in perquiſitions into Mrs. *Cole*'s character in the neighbourhood, (than which nothing could be more favourable to her deſigns upon him,) my gentleman came in his chariot to the ſhop, where Mrs. *Cole* alone had an inkling of his errand; aſking then for her, he eaſily made a beginning of acquaintance by beſpeaking ſome millenary ware, when as I ſat without lifting up my eyes, and purſuing the hem of a ruffle with the utmoſt compoſure, and ſimplicity of induſtry, Mrs. *Cole* took notice that the firſt impreſſions I made on him ran no riſque of being deſtroyed by thoſe of *Louiſa*, and *Emily*, who were then ſitting at work with me. After vainly endeavouring to catch my eyes in rencounter with his, as I held my head down, affecting

a kind of conſciouſneſs of guilt, for having, by ſpeaking to him, given him encouragement and means of following me home, and after giving Mrs. *Cole* direction when to bring herſelf the things home, and the time he ſhould expect them at, he went out, taking with him ſome goods, that he paid for liberally, for the better grace of his introduction.

The girls all this time did not in the leaſt ſmoak the myſtery of this new cuſtomer, but Mrs. *Cole*, as ſoon as we were conveniently alone, inſured me, in virtue of her long experience in theſe matters, that for this bout my charms had not miſſed fire, for that by his eagerneſs, his manner, and looks, ſhe was ſure he had it; the only point now in doubt was his character, and circumſtances, which her knowledge of the town would ſoon gain her ſufficient acquaintance with, to take her meaſures upon.

And effectively, in a few hours, her intelligence ſerved her ſo well, that ſhe learned that this conqueſt of mine was no other than Mr. *Norbert*, a gentleman originally of a great fortune, which, with a conſtitution naturally not the beſt, he had greatly impaired by his over-violent purſuit of the vices of the town, in the courſe of which having worn out and ſtaled all the more common modes of debauchery, he had fallen into a taſte of maiden-hunting, in which chace he had ruined a number of girls, ſparing no expence to compaſs his ends, and generally uſing them well till tired, or cooled by enjoyment, or

ſpringing a new face, he could with more eaſe diſembarraſs himſelf of the old ones, and reſign them up to their fate, as his ſphere of atchievements of that ſort lay only amongſt ſuch as he could proceed with by way of bargain and ſale.

Concluding from theſe premiſes, Mrs. *Cole* obſerved that a character of this ſort was ever lawful prize; that the ſin would be, not to make the beſt of our market of him; and that ſhe thought ſuch a girl as me only too good for him at any rate, and on any terms.

She went then, at the hour appointed to his lodgings, in one of our inns of court, which were furniſhed in a taſte of grandeur that had a ſpecial eye to all the conveniences of luxury and pleaſure. Here ſhe found him in ready waiting, and after finiſhing her buſineſs of pretence, and a long circuit of diſcuſſions concerning her trade, which ſhe ſaid was very bad, the qualities of her ſervants, prentices, journey-women, the diſcourſe naturally landed at length on me, when Mrs. *Cole* acting admirably the good old prating goſſip, who lets every thing eſcape her, when her tongue is ſet in motion, cooked him up a ſtory ſo plauſible of me, throwing in every now and then ſuch ſtrokes of art, with all the ſimpleſt air of nature, in praiſe of my perſon and temper, as finiſhed him finely for her purpoſe, whilſt nothing could be better counterfeited than her innocence of his; but when now fired, and on edge, he proceeded to drop hints of his deſign and views upon me, after he had with much confuſion and pains

brought her to the point (ſhe kept as long aloof from as ſhe thought proper) of underſtanding him, without now affecting to paſs for a dragoneſs of virtue, by flying out into thoſe violent and ever ſuſpicious paſſions, ſhe ſtuck with a better grace and effect to the character of a plain, honeſt, good ſort of a woman, that knew no harm, and that getting her bread in an honeſt way, was made of eaſy and flexible ſtuff enough to be wrought upon to his ends, by his ſuperior ſkill and addreſs; but however, ſhe managed ſo artfully that three or four meetings took place, before he could obtain the leaſt favourable hope of her aſſiſtance, without which, he had, by a number of fruitleſs meſſages, letters, and other direct trials of my diſpoſition, convinced himſelf there was no coming at me, all which too raiſed at once my character and price with him.

Regardful, however, of not carrying theſe difficulties to ſuch a length as might afford time for ſtarting diſcoveries, or incidents unfavourable to her plan, ſhe at laſt pretended to be won over by meer dint of entreaties, promiſes, and above all, by the dazzling ſum ſhe took care to wind him up to the ſpecification of, when it was now even a piece of art to feign, at once a yielding to the allurements of a great intereſt, as a pretext for her yielding at all, and the manner of it ſuch, as might perſwade him ſhe had never before dipped her virtuous fingers in an affair of that ſort.

Thus ſhe led him through all the gradations of difficulty, and obſtacles, neceſſary to enhance the value

value of the prize he aimed at, and in concluſion, he was ſo ſtruck with the little beauty I was miſtreſs of, and ſo eagerly bent on gaining his ends of me, that he left her even no room to boaſt of her management in bringing him up to her mark, he drove ſo plum of himſelf into every thing tending to make him ſwallow the bait: not that in other reſpects, Mr. *Norbert* was not clear-ſighted enough, not that he did not perfectly know the town, and even by experience, the very branch of impoſition now in practice upon him; but we had his paſſion our friend ſo much, he was ſo blinded, and hurried on by it, that he would have thought any undeception a very ill office done to his pleaſure. Thus concurring, even precipitantly, to the point ſhe wanted him at, Mrs. *Cole* brought him at laſt to hug himſelf on the cheap bargain, he conſidered the purchaſe of my imaginary jewel, was to him, at no more than three hundred guineas to myſelf, and an hundred to the brokereſs; being a ſlender recompence for all her pains, and all the ſcruples of conſcience ſhe had now ſacrificed to him for this the firſt time of her life; which ſums were to be paid down on the nail, upon delivery of my perſon, excluſive of ſome no inconſiderable preſents that had been made in the courſe of the negociation; during which, I had occaſionally, but ſparingly, been introduced into his company, at proper times and hours, in which it is incredible how little it ſeemed neceſſary to ſtrain my natural diſpoſition to modeſty higher, in order to paſs it upon him for that of a very

maid: all my looks and geſtures ever breathing nothing but that innocence which the men ſo ardently require in us, for no other end than to feaſt themſelves with the pleaſure of deſtroying it, and which they are ſo grievouſly, with all their ſkill, ſubject to miſtakes in.

When the articles of the treaty had been fully agreed on, the ſtipulated payments duly ſecured, and nothing now remained but the execution of the main point, which centered in the ſurrender of my perſon up to his free diſpoſal and uſe, Mrs. *Cole* managed her objections, eſpecially to his lodgings, and inſinuations ſo nicely, that it became his own mere motion, and urgent requeſt, that this copy of a wedding ſhould be finiſhed at her houſe: at firſt, indeed, ſhe did not care, not ſhe, to have ſuch doings in it,——ſhe would not for a thouſand pounds have any of the ſervants, or prentices know it——her precious good name would be gone for ever,——with the like excuſes: however, by ſuperior objections to all other expedients, whilſt ſhe took care to ſtart none but thoſe that were moſt liable to them, it came round at laſt to the neceſſity of her obliging him in that conveniency, and of doing a little more where ſhe had already done ſo much.

The night then was fixed, with all poſſible reſpect to the eagerneſs of his impatience, and in the mean time Mrs. *Cole* had omitted no inſtructions, nor even neglected any preparation that might enable me to come off with honour, in regard to the appearance of virginity, except that,

favoured

favoured as I was by nature, with all the narrowneſs of ſtricture in that part requiſite to conduct my deſigns, I had no occaſion to borrow thoſe auxiliaries of art that create a momentary one, eaſily diſcovered by the teſt of a warm bath: and as to the uſual bloody ſymptoms of defloration, which, if not always, are generally attendants on it, Mrs. *Cole* had made me the miſtreſs of an invention of her own, which could hardly miſs its effect, and of which more in its place.

Every thing then being diſpoſed and fixed for Mr. *Norbert*'s reception, he was at the hour of eleven at night, with all the myſteries of ſilence and ſecrecy, let in by Mrs. *Cole* herſelf, and introduced into her bed-chamber, where, in an old faſhioned bed of her's, I lay, fully undreſſed, and panting, if not with the fears of a real maid, at leaſt with thoſe perhaps greater, of a diſſembled one, which gave me an air of confuſion and baſhfulneſs that maiden-modeſty had all the honour of, and was indeed ſcarce diſtinguiſhable from it, even by leſs partial eyes than thoſe of my lover, ſo let me call him, for I ever thought the term *cully* too cruel a reproach to the men, for their abuſed weakneſs for us.

As ſoon as Mrs. *Cole*, after the old goſſipery, on thoſe occaſions, uſed to young women abandoned for the firſt time to the will of man, had left us alone in her room, which, by-the-bye, was well lighted up, at his previous deſire, that ſeemed to bode a ſtricter examination than he afterwards made; Mr. *Norbert*, ſtill dreſſed, ſprung

towards the bed, where I had got my head under the cloaths, and defended them a good while before he could even get at my lips, to kiſs them: ſo true it is, that a falſe virtue, on this occaſion, ever makes a greater rout and reſiſtance, than a true one! from thence he deſcended to my breaſts, the feel of which I diſputed tooth and nail, with him, till tired with my reſiſtance, and thinking probably to give a better account of me, when got into bed to me; he hurried his cloaths off in an inſtant, and came into bed.

Mean while, by the glimpſe I ſtole of him, I could eaſily diſcover a perſon far from promiſing any ſuch doughty performances as the ſtorming of maidenheads generally requires, and whoſe flimſy conſumptive texture, gave him more the air of an invalid that was preſſed, than of a volunteer, on ſuch hot ſervice.

At ſcarce thirty, he had already reduced his ſtrength of appetite down to a wretched dependance on forced provocatives, very little ſeconded by the natural powers of a body jaded, and wracked off to the lees by conſtant repeated overdraughts of pleaſure, which had done the work of ſixty winters on his ſprings of life; leaving him at the ſame time all the fire and heat of youth in his imagination, which ſerved at once to torment and to ſpur him down the precipice.

As ſoon as he was in bed, he threw off the bed-cloaths, which I ſuffered him to force from my hold, and I now lay as expoſed as he could wiſh, not only to his attacks, but his viſitation

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of the ſheets, where, in the various agitations of my body, through my endeavours to defend myſelf, he could eaſily aſſure himſelf there was no preparation, or ſtain of blood; though to do him juſtice he ſeemed leſs ſtrict an examinant than I had apprehended from ſo experienced a practitioner. My ſhift then he fairly tore open, finding I made too much uſe of it to barricade my breaſts, as well as the more important avenue: yet in every thing elſe he proceeded with all the marks of tenderneſs and regard to me, whilſt the art of my play was, to ſhew none for him: I acted then all the niceties, apprehenſions, and terrors, ſuppoſable for a girl perfectly innocent, to feel, at ſo great a novelty as a naked man in bed with her for the firſt time. He ſcarce even obtained a kiſs but what he raviſhed; I put his hand away twenty times from my breaſts, where he had ſatisfied himſelf of their hardneſs and conſiſtence with paſſing for hitherto unhandled goods: but when grown impatient for the main point, he now threw himſelf upon me, and firſt trying to examine me with his finger, ſought to make himſelf further way, I complained of his uſage bitterly, "I thought he would not have ſerved a "body ſo. I was ruined.——I did not know "what I had done.———I would get up, ſo I "would."——And at the ſame time kept my thighs ſo faſt locked, that it was not for a ſtrength like his to force them open, or do any good. Finding thus my advantages, and that I had both my own and his motions at command, the deceiving

ceiving him become ſo eaſy, that it was perfect playing upon velvet: in the mean time, his machine, which was one of thoſe ſizes that ſlip in and out without being minded, kept pretty ſtifly bearing againſt that part, which the ſhutting my thighs barred acceſs to: but finding, at length he could do no good by mere dint of bodily ſtrength, he reſorted to intreaties and arguments; to which I only anſwered, with a tone of ſhame and timidity, "that I was afraid it would kill me "——— Lard!——I would not be ſerved ſo. "——— I was never ſo uſed in all my born "days.———I wondered he was not aſhamed "of himſelf, ſo I did.———" With ſuch ſilly infantine modes of repulſe and complaint as I judged beſt adapted to expreſs the characters of innocence and afright. Pretending however to yield at length to the vehemence of his inſiſtence, in action and words; I ſparingly diſcloſed my thighs ſo, that he could juſt touch the cloven inlet with the tip of his inſtrument, but as he fatigued and toiled to get it in, a twiſt of my body, ſo as to receive it obliquely, not only thwarted his admiſſion, but giving a ſcream, as if he had pierced me to the heart, I ſhook him off me, with ſuch violence that he could not with all his might to it, keep the ſaddle: vexed indeed at this he ſeemed, but not in the ſtyle of any diſpleaſure with me for my ſkittiſhneſs; on the contrary, I dare ſwear, he held me the dearer, and hugged himſelf for the difficulties that even hurt his inſtant pleaſure: fired, however, now,

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beyond all bearance of delay, he remounts, and begged of me to have patience, ſtroaking and ſoothing me to it by all the tendereſt endearments and proteſtations of what he would moreover do for me, at which feigning to be ſomething ſoftened, and abating of the anger that I had ſhewn at his hurting me ſo prodigiouſly, I ſuffered him to lay my thighs aſide, and make way for a new trial; but I watched the directions and management of his point ſo well, that no ſooner was the orifice in the leaſt open to it; but I gave ſuch a timely jerk, as ſeemed to proceed, not from the evaſion of his entry, but from the pain his efforts at it put me to: a circumſtance too that I did not fail to accompany with proper geſtures, ſighs, and cries of complaint, of which, "that he had "hurt me———he killed me———I ſhould "die———" were the moſt frequent interjections. But now, after repeated attempts, in which he had not made the leaſt impreſſion, towards gaining his point, at leaſt for that time, the pleaſure roſe ſo faſt upon him that he could not check or delay it, and in the vigour and fury, which the approaches of the height of it inſpired him, he made one fierce thruſt that had almoſt put me by my guard, and lodged it ſo far that I could feel the warm inſperſion juſt within the exterior orifice, which I had the cruelty not to let him finiſh there, but threw him out again, not without a moſt piercing loud exclamation, as if the pain had put me beyond all regard of being over-heard. It was eaſy then to obſerve that he

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was more ſatisfied, more highly pleaſed with the ſuppoſed motives of his baulk of conſummation, than he would have been at the full attainment of it. It was on this foot that I ſalved to myſelf all the falſity I employed to procure him that bliſsful pleaſure in it, which moſt certainly he would not have taſted in the truth of things. Eaſed however, and relieved by one diſcharge, he now applied himſelf to ſooth, encourage, and put me into humour, and patience to bear his next attempt, which he began to prepare and gather force for, from all the incentives of the touch and ſight, which he could think of, by examining every individual part of my whole body, which he declared his ſatisfaction with, in raptures of applauſe, kiſſes univerſally imprinted, and ſparing no part of me, in all the eagereſt wantonneſſes of feeling, ſeeing, and toying: his vigour however did not return ſo ſoon, and I felt him more than once puſhing at the door, but ſo little in a condition to break in, that I queſtion whether he had the power to enter, had I held it ever ſo open; but this he then thought me too little acquainted with the nature of things to have any regret or confuſion about, and he kept fatiguing himſelf and me for a long time before he was in a ſtate of ſtiffneſs to reſume his attempts with any proſpect of ſucceſs! and then I breathed him ſo warmly, and kept him ſo at bay, that before he had made any ſenſible progreſs in point of penetration, he was deliciouſly ſweated, and wearied out indeed! ſo that it was deep in the morning

morning before he had atchieved his ſecond let-go, about half way of entrance, I all the time crying and complaining of his prodigious vigour, and the immenſity of what I appeared to ſuffer ſplitting up with. Tired however at length, with ſuch athletic drudgery, my champion began now to give out, and to gladly embrace the refreſhment of ſome reſt; kiſſing me then with much affection, and recommending me to my repoſe, he preſently fell faſt aſleep: which as ſoon as I had well ſatisfied myſelf of, I, with much compoſure of body, ſo as not to wake him by any motion, with much eaſe and ſafety too, played off Mrs. *Cole*'s device for perfecting the ſigns of my virginity.

In each of the head bed-poſts, juſt above where the bed-ſteads are inſerted into them, there was a ſmall drawer ſo artfully adapted to the mouldings of the timber-work, that it might have eſcaped even the moſt curious ſearch, which drawers were eaſily opened or ſhut, by the touch of a ſpring, and were fitted each with a ſhallow glaſs tumbler, full of a prepared fluid blood; in which lay ſoaked, for ready uſe, a ſpunge; that required no more than gently reaching the hand to it, taking it out, and properly ſqueezing between the thighs, when it yielded a great deal more of the red liquid than would ſave a girl's honour: after which replacing it, and touching the ſpring, all poſſibility of diſcovery, or even of ſuſpicion, was taken away; and all this was not the work of the fourth part of a minute, and

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of which ever ſide one lay, the thing was equally eaſy and practicable, by the double care taken to have each bed-poſt provided alike. True it is, that had he waked, and caught me in the fact, it would at leaſt have covered me with ſhame and confuſion; but then, that he did not, was, with the precautions I took, a riſque of a thouſand to one in my favour.

At eaſe now, and out of all fear of any doubt or ſuſpicion, on his ſide, I addreſſed myſelf in good earneſt to my repoſe; but could obtain none, and in about half an hour's time, my gentleman waked again, and turning towards me, I feigned a ſound ſleep, which he did not long reſpect; but girding himſelf again to renew the onſet, he began to kiſs and careſs me, when now making as if I juſt waked, I complained of the diſturbance, and of the cruel pain that this little reſt had ſtolen my ſenſes from. Eager, however, for the pleaſure, as well as honour of conſummating an entire triumph over my virginity; he ſaid, and did every thing that could overcome my reſiſtance, and bribe my patience to the end, which now I was ready to liſten to, from being ſecure of the bloody proofs I had prepared of his victorious violence, though I ſtill thought it good policy not to let him in yet awhile. I anſwered then only to his importunities, in ſighs and moans, "that I was ſo hurt, I could not bear it.——I "was ſure he had done me a miſchief; that he "had,——he was ſuch a ſad man!" Turning at this, down the cloaths, and viewing the field of

of battle by the glimmer of a dying taper, he ſaw plainly my thighs, ſhift, and ſheets, all yet wet, and ſtained with what he readily took for virgin gore, proceeding from his laſt half-penetration: convinced, and tranſported at which, nothing could equal his joy and exultation. The illuſion was complete: no other conception entered his head but that of his having been at work upon an unopened mine: which idea, upon ſo ſtrong an evidence, redoubled at once his tenderneſs for me, and his ardour for breaking it wholly up. Kiſſing me then with the utmoſt rapture, he comforted me, and begged my pardon for the pain he had put me to, obſerving withal, that it was only a thing in courſe; but the worſt was certainly paſt, and that with a little courage and conſtancy I ſhould get it once well over, and never after experience any thing but the greateſt pleaſure. By little and little I ſuffered myſelf to be prevailed on, and giving, as it were, up the point to him, I made my thighs, inſenſibly ſpreading them, yield him liberty of acceſs, which improving, he got a little within me, when, by a well-managed reception, I worked the female ſcrew ſo nicely, that I kept him from the eaſy and mid-channel direction, and by dextrous wreathings and contorſions creating an artificial difficulty of entrance, made him win it inch by inch, with the moſt laborious ſtruggles, I all the time ſorely complaining, till at length, with might and main, winding his way in, he got it completely home, and giving

my

my virginity, as he thought, the *coup de grace*, furniſhed me the cue of ſetting up a terrible outcry, whilſt he, triumphant, and like a cock, clapping his wings over his down trod miſtreſs, purſued his pleaſure, which preſently roſe in virtue of this idea of complete victory, to a pitch that made me ſoon ſenſible of his melting period, whilſt I now lay acting the deep wounded, breathleſs, frightened, undone, no longer maid.

You will aſk me perhaps, whether all this time I enjoyed any perception of pleaſure? I aſſure you, little or none: till juſt towards the latter end, a faintiſh ſenſe of it came on mechanically, from ſo long a ſtruggle, and frequent fret in that ever ſenſible part: but, in the firſt place, I had no taſte for the perſon I was ſuffering the embraces of, on a purely mercenary account, and then I was not entirely delighted with myſelf for the jade's part I was playing, whatever excuſes I might have to plead for being brought into it: but this inſenſibility kept me ſo much the miſtreſs of my mind and motions, that I could the better manage ſo cloſe a counterfeit, through the whole ſcene of deception.

Recovered at length to more ſhew of life, by his tender condolences, kiſſes, and embraces, I upbraided him, and reproached him for my ruin, in ſuch natural terms, as added to his ſatisfaction with himſelf, for having accompliſhed it; and gueſſing, by certain obſervations of mine, that it would be rather favourable to him, to ſpare him,

him, when he ſometime after, feebly enough, came on again to the aſſault, I reſolutely withſtood any further endeavours, on a pretext that flattered his proweſs, of my being ſo violently hurt and ſore, that I could not poſſibly endure a freſh trial: he then graciouſly granted me a reſpite, and the morning ſoon after advancing, I got rid of farther importunity, till Mrs. *Cole*, being rang for by him, came in, and was made acquainted in terms of the utmoſt joy and rapture, with his triumphant certainty of my virtue, and the finiſhing ſtroke he had given it, in the courſe of the night; of which he added, ſhe would ſee proof enough, in bloody characters, on the ſheets.

You may gueſs how a woman of her turn of addreſs and experience, humoured the jeſt, and played him off with mixed exclamations of ſhame, anger, compaſſion for me, and of her being pleaſed that all was ſo well over; in which laſt, I believe, ſhe was perfectly ſincere. And now, as the objection which ſhe had repreſented as an invincible one, to my laying the firſt night at his lodgings (which were ſtudiouſly calculated for a freedom of intrigues) on the account of my maiden fears and terrors, at the thoughts of going to a gentleman's chambers, and being alone with him in bed, was ſurmounted, ſhe pretended to perſuade me, in favour to him, that I ſhould go there to him, whenever he pleaſed, and ſtill keep up all the neceſſary appearances of working with her, that I might not loſe, with my cha-

racter, the proſpect of getting a good huſband, and at the ſame time her houſe would be kept the ſafer from ſcandal. All this ſeemed ſo reaſonable, ſo conſiderate to Mr. *Norbert*, that he never once perceived, that ſhe did not want him to reſort to her houſe, leſt he might in time diſcover certain inconſiſtencies with the character ſhe ſet out with to him; beſides that this plan greatly flattered his own eaſe, and views of liberty.

Leaving me then to my much wanted reſt, he got up, and Mrs. *Cole*, after ſettling with him all points relating to me, got him undiſcovered out of the houſe. After which, and I was awake, ſhe came in, and gave me due praiſes on my ſucceſs; behaving too with her uſual moderation and diſintereſtedneſs, ſhe refuſed any ſhare of the ſum I had thus earned, and put me into ſuch a ſecure and eaſy way of diſpoſing of my affairs, which now amounted to a kind of little fortune, that a child of ten years old might have kept the account, and property of them ſafe in its hands.

I was now reſtored again to my former ſtate of a kept miſtreſs, and uſed punctually to wait on Mr. *Norbert* at his chambers, whenever he ſent a meſſenger for me, which I conſtantly took care to be in the way of, and managed with ſo much caution that he never once penetrated the nature of my connections with Mrs. *Cole*, but indolently given up to eaſe, and the town diſſipations, the perpetual hurry of them hindered him from looking into his own affairs, much leſs into mine.

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In the mean time, if I may judge from my own experience, none are better paid, or better treated, during their reign, than the miſtreſſes of thoſe who, enervate by nature, debaucheries, or age, have the leaſt employment for the ſex: ſenſible that a woman muſt be ſatisfied ſome way, they ply her with a thouſand little tender attentions, preſents, careſſes, confidences, and exhauſt their invention in means and devices to make up for the capital deficiency: and even towards leſſening that, what arts, what modes, what refinements of pleaſure have they not recourſe to, to raiſe their languid powers, and preſs nature into the ſervice of their ſenſuality? But here is their misfortune, that when by a courſe of teazing, worrying, handling, wanton poſtures, laſcivious motions, they have at length accompliſhed a flaſhy enervate enjoyment, they have at the ſame time lighted up a flame in the object of their paſſion, that not having the means themſelves to quench, drives her for relief, into the next perſon's arms, who can finiſh their work: and thus they become bawds to ſome ſecret favourite, tried, and approved of for a more vigorous, and ſatisfactory execution; for with women, of our turn eſpecially, however well our hearts may be diſpoſed, there is a controuling part, or queen-ſeat in us, that governs itſelf by its own maxims of ſtate, amongſt which not one is ſtronger in practice with it, than, in mat-

ter of its dues, never to accept the will for the deed.

Mr. *Norbert*, who was much in this ungracious caſe, though he profeſſed and ſhewed to like me extremely, could but ſeldom conſummate the main-joy itſelf with me, without ſuch a length and variety of preparations as were at once weariſome and inflammatory.

Sometimes he would ſtrip me ſtark naked on a carpet, by a good fire; when he would contemplate me almoſt by the hour, diſpoſing me in all the figures and attitudes of body, that it was ſuſceptible of being viewed in: kiſſing me in every part, the moſt ſecret and critical one ſo far from excepted, that it received moſt of that branch of homage, then his touches were ſo exquiſitely wanton, and luxurioufly diffuſed, and penetrative at times, that he made me perfectly rage with titillating fires, when, after all, and when with much ado, he had gained a ſhort-lived erection, he would perhaps melt it away in a waſhy ſweat, or a premature abortive effuſion, that provokingly mocked my eager deſires; or, if carried home, how faultered and unnervous the execution! how inſufficient the ſprinkle of a few heat-drops to extinguiſh all the flames he had kindled.

One evening I cannot help remembering, that returning home from him with a ſpirit he had raiſed in a circle his wand had proved too weak to lay, as I turned the corner of a ſtreet, I was overtaken by a young ſailor. I was then in that ſpruce, neat, and plain dreſs, which I ever affected,

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fected, and perhaps might have in my trip a certain air of reſtleſſneſs unknown to the compoſure of cooler thoughts. However he ſeized me as prize, and without ceremony, threw his hands round my neck, and kiſſed me boiſterouſly, and ſweetly. I looked at him with a beginning of anger and indignation at his rudeneſs, that ſoftened away into other ſentiments as faſt as I viewed him: for he was tall, manly-carriaged, handſome of body and face, ſo that I ended my ſtare, with aſking him in a tone turned to tenderneſs, what he meant: at which, with the ſame frankneſs, and vivacity as he had begun with me, he propoſed treating me with a glaſs of wine: now, certain it is, that had I been in a calmer ſtate of blood than I was; had I been leſs under the dominion of unappeaſed irritations and deſires, I ſhould have refuſed him without heſitation: but I do not know how it was, my preſſing calls, his figure, the occaſion, and if you will, the powerful combination of all theſe with a ſtart of curioſity, to ſee the end of an adventure ſo novel to me as being thus treated like a common ſtreet-plyer, made me give a ſilent conſent: in ſhort, it was not my head that I now obeyed. I ſuffered myſelf then to be towed along as it were by this man of war, who took me under his arm as familiarly as if he had known me all his life-time, and led me into the next convenient tavern, where we were ſhewn into a little room on one ſide of the paſſage. Here, ſcarce allowing himſelf patience till the drawer brought in the wine called

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for, he fell directly on board me: when untucking my handkerchief, and giving me a ſmacking buſs, he laid my breaſts bare at once, which he handled with that keenneſs of guſt that abridges a ceremonial ever more tireſome than pleaſing on ſuch preſſing occaſions; and now hurrying towards the main-point, we found no conveniency for our purpoſe; two or three diſabled chairs, and a ricketty table compoſing the whole furniture of the room.

Without more ado, he plants me with my back ſtanding againſt the wall, and my petticoats up, and coming out with a ſplitter indeed, made it ſhine, as he brandiſhed it, in my eyes, and going to work with an impetuoſity and eagerneſs, bred very likely by a long faſt at ſea, went to give me the taſte of it: I ſtraddled, I humoured my poſture, and did my beſt in ſhort to buckle to it; I took part of it in too: but ſtill things did not jee to his thorough liking: changing then in a trice his ſyſtem of battery, he leads me to the table, and with a maſter-hand lays my head down on the edge of it, and with the other canting up my petticoat and ſhift, bares my naked poſteriors to his blind, and furious guide: it forces his way between them, and I feeling pretty ſenſibly that it was going by the right door, and knocking deſperately at the wrong one, I told him of it: "Pooh, ſays he, my dear, any port "in a ſtorm."———Altering, however directly, his courſe, and lowering his point, he fixed it right, and driving it up with a delicious ſtiffneſs, made

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made all foam again, and gave me the *tout* with ſuch fire, and ſpirit, that in the fine diſpoſition I was in, when I ſubmitted to him, and ſtirred up ſo fiercely as I was, I got the ſtart of him, and went away into the melting ſwoon, and ſqueezing him, whilſt in the convulſive graſp of it, drew from him ſuch a plenteous bedewal of balmy ſweets, as joined to my own effuſion, perfectly floated thoſe parts, and drowned in a deluge all my raging conflagration of deſire.

When this was over, how to make my retreat was my concern; for though I had been ſo extremely pleaſed with the difference between this warm broadſide poured ſo briſkly into me, and the tireſome pawing and toying, to which I had owed the unappeaſed flames that had driven me into this ſtep; now I was grown cooler, I began to apprehend the danger of contracting an acquaintance with this, however, agreeable ſtranger; who, on his ſide, ſpoke of paſſing the evening with me, and continuing our intimacy, with an air of determination that made me afraid of its being not ſo eaſy to get away from him as I could wiſh: in the mean time I carefully concealed my uneaſineſs, and readily pretended to conſent to ſtay with him, telling him, I ſhould only ſtep to my lodgings, to leave a neceſſary direction, and then inſtantly return. This he very glibly ſwallowed, on the notion of my being one of thoſe unhappy ſtreet-errants, who devote themſelves to the pleaſure of the firſt ruffian that will ſtoop to pick them up, and of courſe, that I would

ſcarce bilk myſelf of my hire by my not returning, to make the moſt of the job. Thus he parted with me, not before, however, he had ordered, in my hearing, a ſupper, which I had the barbarity to diſappoint him of my company to.

But when I got home, and told Mrs. *Cole* my adventure, ſhe repreſented ſo ſtrongly to me the nature and dangerous conſequences of my folly, the riſques to my health, in being ſo open-legged, and free of my fleſh, that I not only took reſolutions never to venture ſo raſhly again, which I inviolably preſerved; but paſſed a good many days in continual uneaſineſs leſt I ſhould have met with other reaſons, beſides the pleaſure of that rencounter, to remember it: but theſe fears wronged my pretty ſailor, for which I gladly make him this reparation.

I had now lived with Mr. *Norbert* near a quarter of a year, in which ſpace I circulated my time very pleaſantly, between my amuſements at Mrs. *Cole*'s, and a proper attendance on that gentleman, who paid me profuſely for the unlimited complaiſance with which I paſſively humoured every caprice of pleaſure, and which had won upon him ſo greatly, that finding, as he ſaid, all that variety in me alone, which he had ſought for in a number of women, I had made him loſe his taſte for inconſtancy, and new faces. But what was yet at leaſt as agreeable to me as his fondneſs and attachment, as well as much more flattering; the love I had inſpired him with, bred a deference to me that was of great ſervice to his health. For having

ing by degrees, and with moſt pathetic repreſentations, brought him to ſome huſbandry of it, and to enſure the duration of his pleaſures by moderating their uſe, and correcting thoſe exceſſes in them he was ſo addicted to, and which had ſhattered his conſtitution, and deſtroyed his powers of life, in the very point, for which he ſeemed chiefly deſirous to live; he was grown more delicate, more temperate, and all in courſe more healthy; his gratitude for which was taking a turn very favourable for my fortune, when once more the caprice of it, daſhed the cup from my lips.

His ſiſter, lady *L*——, for whom he had a great affection, deſiring him to accompany her down to *Bath* for her health, he could not refuſe her ſuch a favour, and accordingly, though he counted on ſtaying away from me no more than a week at fartheſt, he took his leave of me, with an ominous heavineſs of heart, and left with me a ſum far above the ſtate of his fortune, and very inconſiſtent with the intended ſhortneſs of his journey, but it ended in the longeſt that can be, and is never but once taken; for, arrived at *Bath*, he was not there two days before he fell into a debauch of drinking with ſome gentlemen, that threw him into a high fever, which carried him off in four days time, never once out of a delirium. Had he been in his ſenſes to make a will, perhaps he might have made favourable mention of me in it. Thus, however, I loſt him; and as no condition of life is more ſubject to revolutions than that of a woman of pleaſure, I ſoon recovered my chear-

chearfulneſs, and now beheld myſelf once more ſtruck off the liſt of kept-miſtreſſes, and returned into the boſom of the community, from which I had been in ſome meaſure taken.

Mrs. *Cole* ſtill continuing her friendſhip, offered me her aſſiſtance and advice towards another choice; but I was now in a ſtate of eaſe and affluence enough to look about me at leiſure; and as to any conſtitutional calls of pleaſure, their preſſure or ſenſibility was greatly leſſened by a conſciouſneſs of the eaſe with which they were to be ſatisfied at Mrs. *Cole*'s houſe, where *Louiſa* and *Emily* ſtill continued in the old way; and my great favourite *Harriet*, uſed often to come and ſee me, and entertain me, with her head and heart full of the happineſs ſhe enjoyed with her dear baronet, whom ſhe loved with tenderneſs and conſtancy, even though he was her keeper; and what is yet more, had made her independent by a handſome proviſion for her and hers.

I was then in this vacancy from any regular employ of my perſon, in my way of buſineſs, when one day Mrs. *Cole*, in the courſe of the conſtant confidence we lived in, acquainted me that there was one Mr. *Barvile*, a gentleman who uſed her houſe, juſt come to town, whom ſhe was not a little perplexed about providing a ſuitable companion for; which was indeed a point of difficulty, as he was under the tyranny of a cruel taſte; that of an ardent deſire, not only of being unmercifully whipped himſelf, but of whipping others, in ſuch ſort, that tho' he paid extravagantly thoſe who

who had the courage and complaiſance to ſubmit to his humour; there were few, delicate as he was in the choice of his ſubjects, who would exchange turns with him ſo terribly at the expence of their ſkin: but what yet increaſed the oddity of this ſtrange fancy, was the gentleman's being young; whereas it generally attacks, it ſeems, ſuch as are, through age, obliged to have recourſe to this experiment, for quickening the circulation of their ſluggiſh juices, and determining a conflux of the ſpirits of pleaſure towards thoſe flagging, ſhrivelly parts, that riſe to life only by virtue of thoſe titillating ardours created by the diſcipline of their oppoſites, with which they have ſo ſurpriſing a conſent.

This Mrs. *Cole* could not well acquaint me with in any expectation of my offering my ſervice; for ſufficiently eaſy as I was in my circumſtances, it muſt have been the temptation of an immenſe intereſt indeed, that could have induced me to embrace ſuch a job; neither had I ever expreſſed, or indeed felt, the leaſt impulſe or curioſity to know more of a taſte, that promiſed ſo much more pain than pleaſure, to thoſe that ſtood in no need of ſuch violent goads: what then ſhould move me to ſubſcribe myſelf voluntarily to a party of pain, foreknowing it ſuch? Why, to tell the plain truth; it was a ſudden caprice, a guſt of fancy for trying a new experiment, mixed with the vanity of approving my perſonal courage to Mrs. *Cole*, that determined me, at all riſques, to propoſe myſelf to her, and relieve her from any farther

farther look-out; accordingly, I at once pleaſed and ſurpriſed her, with a frank and unreſerved tender of my perſon to her, and her friend's abſolute diſpoſal on this occaſion.

My good temporal mother, was however ſo kind as to uſe all the arguments ſhe could imagine to diſſuade me: but as I found they only turned on a motive of tenderneſs to me, I perſiſted in my reſolution, and thereby acquitted my offer of any ſuſpicion of its not having been ſincerely made, or out of compliment only: acquieſcing then thankfully in it, Mrs. *Cole* aſſured me, that bating the pain I ſhould be put to, ſhe had no ſcruple to engage me in this party, which ſhe aſſured me I ſhould be liberally paid for, and which the ſecreſy of the tranſaction, preſerved ſafe from the ridicule that otherwiſe vulgarly attended it: that for her part, ſhe conſidered pleaſure of one ſort or other, as the univerſal port of deſtination, and every wind that blew thither a good one, provided it blew no-body any harm: that ſhe rather compaſſionated, than blamed thoſe unhappy perſons, who are under a ſubjection they cannot ſhake off, to thoſe arbitrary taſtes that rule their appetites of pleaſure with an unaccountable controul: taſtes too, as infinitely diverſified, as ſuperior to, and independent of all reaſoning, as the different reliſhes or palates of mankind in their viands; ſome delicate ſtomachs nauſeating plain meats, and finding no ſavour but in high ſeaſoned, luxurious diſhes; whilſt others again pique themſelves upon deteſting them.

I ſtood

I ſtood now in no need of this preamble of encouragements, or juſtification: my word was given, and I was determined to fulfil my engagements; accordingly the night was ſet, and I had all the neceſſary previous inſtructions how to act and conduct myſelf. The dining-room was duly prepared and lighted up, and the young gentleman poſted there in waiting for my introduction to him.

I was then, by Mrs. *Cole*, handed in, and preſented to him in a looſe diſhabil, fitted, by her direction, to the exerciſe I was to go through, all in the fineſt linen, and a thorough white-uniform: gown, petticoat, ſtockings, and ſattin ſlippers, like a victim led to the ſacrifice; whilſt my dark auburn hair, falling in drop-curls over my neck, created a pleaſing diſtinction of colour from the reſt of my dreſs.

As ſoon as Mr. *Barvile* ſaw me, he got up with a very viſible air of pleaſure and ſurpriſe, and after ſaluting me, aſked Mrs. *Cole* if it was poſſible that ſo fine and delicate a creature, would voluntarily ſubmit to ſuch ſufferings, and rigours, as were the ſubject of this aſſignation. She anſwered him properly, and now reading in his eyes, that ſhe could not too ſoon leave us together, ſhe went out, after recommending him to uſe moderation with ſo tender a novice.

But whilſt ſhe was employing his attention, mine had been taken up with examining the figure and perſon of this unhappy young gentleman, who was thus unaccountably condemned to have his

his pleaſure laſhed into him, as boys have their learning.

He was exceeding fair, and ſmooth complexioned; and appeared to me no more than twenty at moſt, tho' he was three years older than what my conjectures gave him; but then he owed this favourable miſtake to a habit of fatneſs, which ſpread through a ſhort, ſquab ſtature, and a round, plump, freſh-coloured face, gave him greatly the look of a *Bacchus*, had not an air of auſterity, not to ſay ſternneſs, very unſuitable even to his ſhape of face, daſhed that character of joy, neceſſary to complete the reſemblance. His light-brown hair was pretty thick, uncurl'd, and looked as if it had been trimmed with a bowl-diſh, as we are told the *Round-heads* were in *Oliver*'s time. His dreſs was extremely neat, but plain, and far inferior to the ample fortune, he was in full poſſeſſion of: this too was a taſte in him, and not avarice.

As ſoon as Mrs. *Cole* was gone, he ſeated me near him, when now his face changed upon me, into an expreſſion of the moſt pleaſing ſweetneſs and good humour, the more remarkable for its ſudden ſhift from the other extreme, which I found afterwards, when I knew more of his character, was owing to an habitual ſtate of conflict with, and diſlike of himſelf, for being enſlaved to ſo peculiar a guſt, by the fatality of a conſtitutional aſcendant, that rendered him incapable of receiving any pleaſure, till he ſubmitted to theſe extraordinary means of procuring it at the hands

of

of pain, whilſt the conſtancy of this repining conſciouſneſs, ſtamped at length that caſt of ſourneſs and ſeverity on his features, which was in fact very foreign to the natural ſweetneſs of his temper.

After then a competent preparation by apologies, and encouragement to go through my part with ſpirit and conſtancy, he ſtood up near the fire, whilſt I went to fetch the inſtruments of diſcipline, out of a cloſet hard by: theſe were ſeveral rods, made each of two or three ſtrong twigs of birch tied together, which he took, handled, and viewed with as much pleaſure as I did with a kind of ſhuddering preſage.

Next we took from the ſide of the room a long broad bench, made eaſy to lie at length on by a ſoft cuſhion in a callico-cover: and every thing being now ready, he took his coat and waiſtcoat off; and, at his motion and deſire, I unbuttoned his breeches, and rolling his ſhirt up rather above his waiſt, tucked it in ſecurely there; when directing naturally my eyes to that humourſome maſter-movement, in whoſe favour all theſe diſpoſitions were making, it ſeemed almoſt ſhrunk into his belly, ſcarce ſhewing its tip above the ſprout of hairy curls that cloathed thoſe parts, as you may have ſeen a wren peep its head out of the graſs.

Stooping then to untie his garters, he gave them me for the uſe of tying him down to the legs of the bench, a circumſtance no farther neceſſary than as I ſuppoſe it made part of the humour of the

the thing, ſince he preſcribed it himſelf, amongſt the reſt of the ceremonial.

I led him then to the bench, and according to my cue, played at forcing him to lie down: which, after ſome little ſhew of reluctance, for form-ſake, he ſubmitting to, was ſtraitway extended flat upon his belly, on the bench, with a pillow under his face; and as he thus tamely lay, I tied him ſlightly hand and foot, to the legs of it; which done, his ſhirt remaining truſſed up over the ſmall of his back, I drew his breeches quite down to his knees; and now he lay, in all the faireſt, broadeſt diſplay of that part of the back-view, in which a pair of chubby, ſmooth-cheeked, and paſſing white poſteriors roſe cuſhioning upwards from two ſtout fleſhful thighs, and ending their cleft or ſeparation, by an union at the ſmall of the back, preſented a bold mark, that ſwelled, as it were, to meet the ſcourge.

Seizing now one of the rods, I ſtood over him, and, according to his direction, gave him, in one breath, ten laſhes with much good-will, and the utmoſt nerve and vigour of arm that I could put to them, ſo as to make thoſe fleſhy orbs quiver again under them, whilſt himſelf ſeemed no more concerned, or to mind them, than a lobſter would a flea-bite: in the mean time, I viewed intently the effects of them, which to me at leaſt appeared ſurpriſingly cruel: every laſh had ſkimmed the ſurface of thoſe white cliffs, which they deeply reddened, and lapping round the ſide of the further-moſt from me, cut, eſpecially into the dimple of

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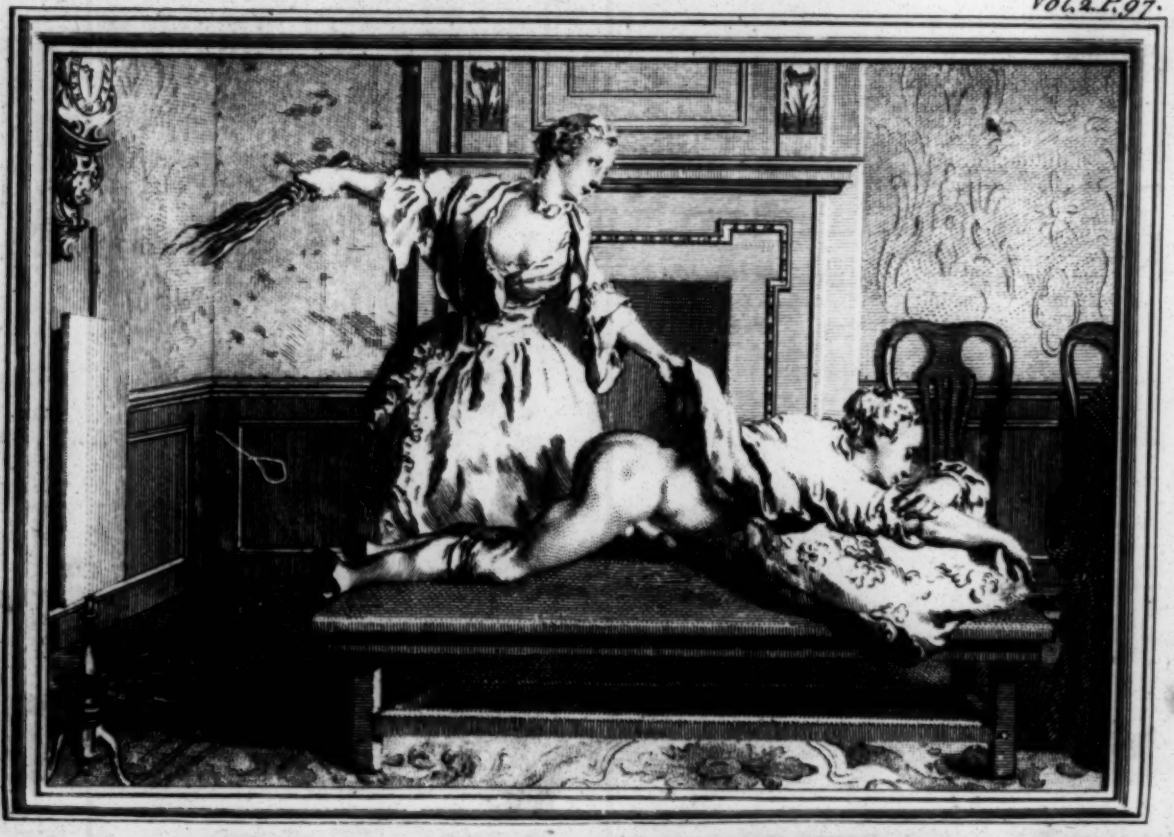

of it, ſuch livid weals, as the blood either ſpun out from, or ſtood in large drops on; and from ſome of the cuts I picked out even the ſplinters of the rod, that had ſtuck in the ſkin: nor was this raw work to be wondered at, conſidering the greenneſs of the twigs, and the ſeverity of the infliction, whilſt the whole ſurface of his ſkin was ſo ſmooth-ſtretched over the hard and firm pulp of fleſh that filled it, as to yield no play, or eluſive ſwagging under the ſtroke, which thereby took place the more plum, and cut into the quick.

I was however already ſo moved at the piteous ſight, that I from my heart repented the undertaking, and would willingly have given over, thinking he had full enough; but, he encouraging, and beſeeching me earneſtly to proceed, I gave him ten more laſhes, and then reſting, ſurveyed the increaſe of bloody appearances, and at length, ſteeled to the ſight, by his ſtoutneſs in ſuffering, I continued the diſcipline, by intervals, till I obſerved him wreathing and twiſting his body in a way that I could plainly perceive was not the effect of pain, but of ſome new and powerful ſenſation; curious to dive into the meaning of which, in one of my pauſes of intermiſſion, I approached as he ſtill kept working, and grinding his belly againſt the cuſhion under him; and firſt, ſtroaking the untouched and unhurt ſide of the fleſh-mount next me, then ſoftly inſinuating my hand under his thigh, felt the poſture things were in forwards, which was indeed ſurpriſing; for that

machine of his, which I had by its appearance, taken for an impalpable, or at beſt a very diminutive ſubject, was now, in virtue of all that ſmart and havock of his ſkin behind, grown not only to a prodigious ſtiffneſs of erection, but to a ſize that frighted even me: a non-pareil thickneſs indeed! the head of it alone filled the utmoſt capacity of my graſp: and when, as he heaved and wriggled to and fro, in the agitation of his ſtrange pleaſure, it came into view, it had ſomething of the air of a round fillet of the whiteſt veal, like its owner, ſquob, and ſhort in proportion to its breadth; but when he felt my hand there, he begged I would go on briſkly with my jerking, or he ſhould never arrive at the laſt ſtage of pleaſure.

Reſuming then the rod, and the exerciſe of it, I had fairly worn out three bundles, when after an increaſe of ſtruggles, and motion, and a deep ſigh or two, I ſaw him lie ſtill and motionleſs: and now he deſired me to deſiſt, which I inſtantly did, and proceeding to untie him, I could not but be amazed at his paſſive fortitude, on viewing the ſkin of his butchered, mangled poſteriors, late ſo white, ſmooth, and poliſhed, now all one ſide of them, a confuſed cut-work of weals, livid fleſh, gaſhes and gore, inſomuch that when he ſtood up, he could ſcarce walk; in ſhort, he was in ſweet-briars.

Then I plainly perceived on the cuſhion, the marks of a plenteous effuſion of white liquid, and already had his ſluggard member run up to its old neſtling-

neſtling-place, and enſconſed itſelf again, as if aſhamed to ſhew its head, which nothing, it ſeems, could raiſe but ſtripes inflicted on its oppoſite neighbours, who were thus conſtantly obliged to ſuffer for his caprice.

My gentleman had now put on his cloaths, and recompoſed himſelf, when giving me a kiſs, and placing me by him, he ſat down himſelf as gingerly as poſſible, with the one ſide off the cuſhion, which was too ſore for him to bear reſting any part of his weight on.

Here he thanked me extremely for the pleaſure I had procured him, and ſeeing perhaps ſome marks in my countenance of terror, and apprehenſion of retaliation on my own ſkin, for what I had been the inſtrument of his ſuffering in his, he aſſured me, he was ready to give up to me any engagement I might deem myſelf under to ſtand him, as he had done me; but that if I proceeded in my conſent to it, he would conſider the difference of my ſex, its greater delicacy, and incapacity to undergo pain. Reheartened at which, and piqued in honour, as I thought, not to flinch ſo near the trial, eſpecially, as I well knew Mrs. *Cole* was an eye-witneſs, from her ſtand of eſpial, to the whole of our tranſactions, I was now leſs afraid of my ſkin, than of his not furniſhing me an opportunity of ſignalizing my reſolution.

Conſonant to this diſpoſition was my anſwer, but my courage was ſtill more in my head, than in my heart, and as cowards ruſh into the danger they fear, in order to be the ſooner rid of the

pain of that ſenſation, I was entirely pleaſed with his haſtening matters into execution.

He had then little to do, but to unlooſe the ſtrings of my petticoat, and lift them, together with my ſhift, navel-high, where he juſt tucked them up looſely girt, and might be ſlipt up higher at pleaſure: then viewing me round with great ſeeming delight, he laid me at my length, on my face upon the bench, and when I expected he would tie me, as I had done him, and held out my hands, not without fear, and a little trembling; he told me, he would by no means terrify me unneceſſarily with ſuch a confinement; for that though he meant to put my conſtancy to ſome trial, the ſtanding it was to be completely voluntary on my ſide, and therefore I was to be at full liberty to get up whenever I found the pain too much for me;———You cannot imagine how much I thought myſelf bound, by being thus allowed to remain looſe, and how much ſpirit this confidence in me, gave me, ſo that I was, even from my heart, careleſs how much my fleſh might ſuffer in honour of it.

All my back parts naked half way up, were now fully at his mercy: and firſt, he ſtood at a convenient diſtance, delighting himſelf with a gloating ſurvey of the attitude I lay in, and of all the ſecret ſtores I thus expoſed to him in fair diſplay: then ſpringing eagerly towards me, he covered all thoſe naked parts with a fond profuſion of kiſſes; and now taking hold of the rod, rather wantoned with me, in gentle inflictions on thoſe tender

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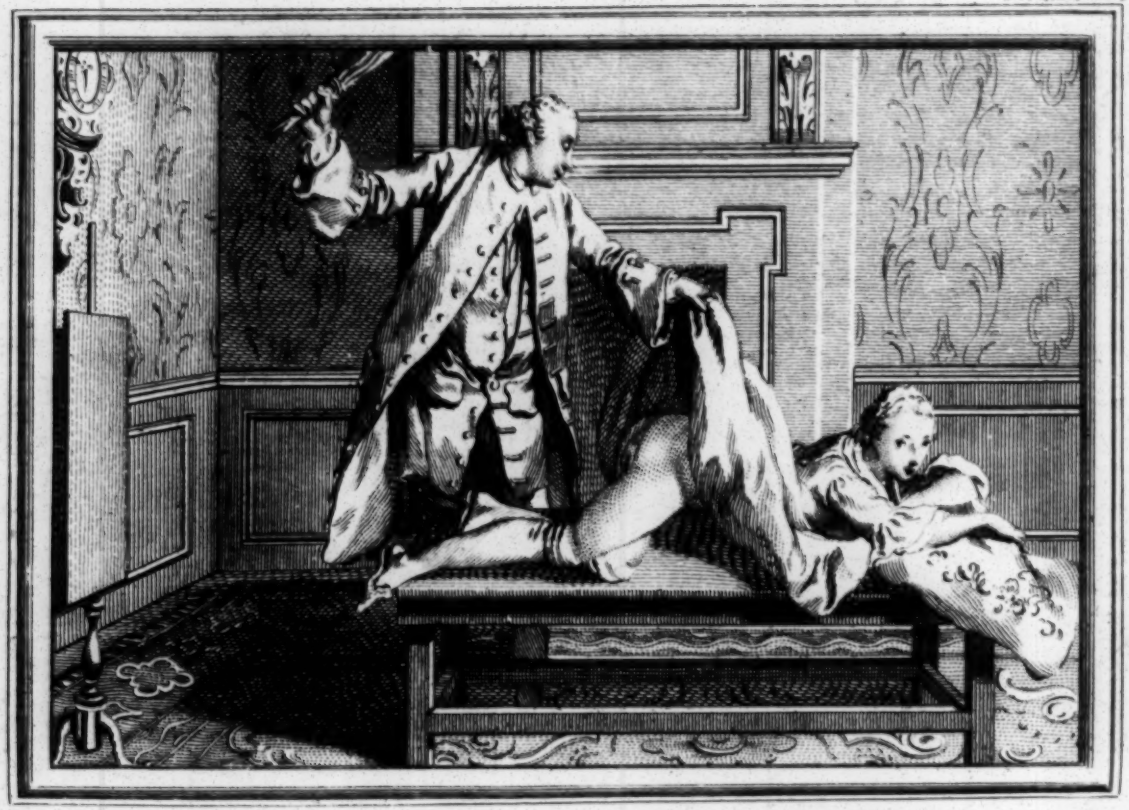

tender trembling maſſes of my fleſh behind, than any way hurt them, till by degrees he began to tingle them with ſmarter laſhes, ſo as to provoke a colour into them, which I knew, as well by the flagrant glow I felt there, as by his telling me, they now emulated the native roſes of my other cheeks: when he had then amuſed himſelf with admiring, and toying with them, he went on to ſtrike harder, and more hard; ſo that I needed all my patience not to cry out, or complain at leaſt: at laſt he twigged me ſo ſmartly as to fetch blood in more than one laſh: at ſight of which, he flung down the rod, flew to me, kiſſed away the ſtarting drops, and ſucking the wounds, eaſed a good deal of my pain: but now raiſing me on my knees, and making me kneel with them ſtradling wide, that tender part of me naturally the province of pleaſure, not of pain, came in for its ſhare of ſuffering, for now, eying it wiſtfully, he directed the rod ſo that the ſharp ends of the twigs lighted there, ſo ſenſibly, that I could not help winching, and writhing my limbs with ſmart; ſo that my contorſions of body muſt neceſſarily throw it into an infinite variety of poſtures, and points of view, fit to feaſt the luxury of the eye: but ſtill I bore every thing without crying out: when preſently giving me another pauſe, he ruſhed, as it were, on that part, whoſe lips, and round-about, had felt his cruelty, and by way of repa-ration, glews his own to them: then he opened, ſhut, ſqueezed them, plucked ſoftly the over-growing moſs, and all this in a ſtyle of wild paſ-

ſionate rapture and enthuſiaſm, that expreſſed exceſs of pleaſure, till betaking himſelf to the rod again, encouraged by my paſſiveneſs, and infuriate with this ſtrange taſte of delight, he made my poor poſteriors pay for the ungovernableneſs of it; for now ſhewing them no quarter, the traitor cut me ſo, that I wanted but very little of fainting away, when he gave over; and yet I did not utter one groan, or angry expoſtulation; but in my heart I reſolved nothing ſo ſeriouſly, as never to expoſe myſelf again to the like ſeverities.

You may gueſs then in what a curious pickle thoſe fleſh-cuſhions of mine were, all ſore, raw, and in fine, terribly clawed off; but ſo far from feeling any pleaſure in it, that the recent ſmart made me pout a little; and not with the greateſt air of ſatisfaction, receive the compliments, and after-careſſes of the author of my pain.

As ſoon as my cloaths were huddled on, in a little decency, a ſupper was brought in by the diſcreet Mrs. *Cole* herſelf, which might have piqued the ſenſuality of a cardinal, accompanied with a choice of the richeſt wines; all which ſhe ſet before us, and went out again, without having by a word, or even by a ſmile, given us the leaſt interruption, or confuſion, in thoſe inſtants of ſecreſy, that we were not yet ripe for the admiſſion of a third to.

I ſat down then, ſtill ſcarce in charity with my butcher: for ſuch I could not help conſidering him, and was moreover not a little piqued at the gay, ſatisfied air of his countenance, which I thought

thought myſelf inſulted by: but when the now neceſſary refreſhment to me, of a glaſs of wine, and a little eating, (all the time obſerving a profound ſilence) had ſomewhat cheared, and reſtored me to ſpirits; and as the ſmart began to go off, my good humour returned accordingly, which alteration not eſcaping him, he ſaid and did every thing that could confirm me in, and indeed exalt it.

But ſcarce was ſupper well over, before a change ſo incredible was wrought in me, ſuch violent, yet pleaſingly irkſome ſenſations took poſſeſſion of me, that I ſcarce knew how to contain myſelf: the ſmart of the laſhes was now converted into ſuch a prickly heat, ſuch fiery tinglings, as made me ſigh, ſqueeze my thighs together, ſhift and wriggle about my ſeat, with a furious reſtleſſneſs; whilſt theſe itching ardours thus excited in thoſe parts on which the ſtorm of diſcipline had principally fallen, detached legions of burning, ſubtile, ſtimulating ſpirits, to their oppoſite ſpot, and center of aſſemblage, where their titillation raged ſo furiouſly, that I was even ſtinging-mad with them; no wonder then, that in ſuch a taking, and devoured by flames that licked up all modeſty and reſerve, my eyes now charged brimful of the moſt intenſe deſire, fired on my companion very intelligible ſignals of diſtreſs: my companion, I ſay, who grew in them every inſtant more amiable, and more neceſſary to my urgent wiſhes, and hopes of immediate eaſe.

Mr. *Barvile*, no ſtranger, by experience, to theſe ſituations, ſoon knew the paſs I was brought to; ſoon perceived my extreme diſorder; in favour of which, removing the table out of the way, he began a prelude that flattered me with inſtant relief, which I was not however ſo near as I imagined: for as he was unbuttoned to me, and tried to provoke, and rouſe to action his unactive, torpid machine, he bluſhingly owned, that no good was to be expected from it, unleſs I took in hand to re-excite its languid, loitering powers, by juſt refreſhing the ſmart of the yet recent, blood-raw cuts, ſeeing it could, no more than a boy's top, keep up without laſhing: ſenſible then, that I ſhould work as much for my own profit as his, I hurried my compliance with his deſire, and abridging the ceremonial, whilſt he leaned his head againſt the back of a chair, I had ſcarce gently made him feel the laſh, before I ſaw the object of my wiſhes give ſigns of life, and preſently, as it were with a magic touch, it ſtarted up into a noble ſize, and diſtinction indeed! haſtening then to give me the benefit of it, he threw me down on the bench; but ſuch was the refreſhed ſoreneſs of thoſe parts behind, on my leaning ſo hard on them as became me to compaſs the admiſſion of that ſtupendous head of his machine, that I could not poſſibly bear it: I got up then, and tried, by leaning forwards, and turning the crupper on my aſſailant, to let him in the back-avenue; but here it was likewiſe impoſſible to ſtand his bearing ſo fiercely againſt me

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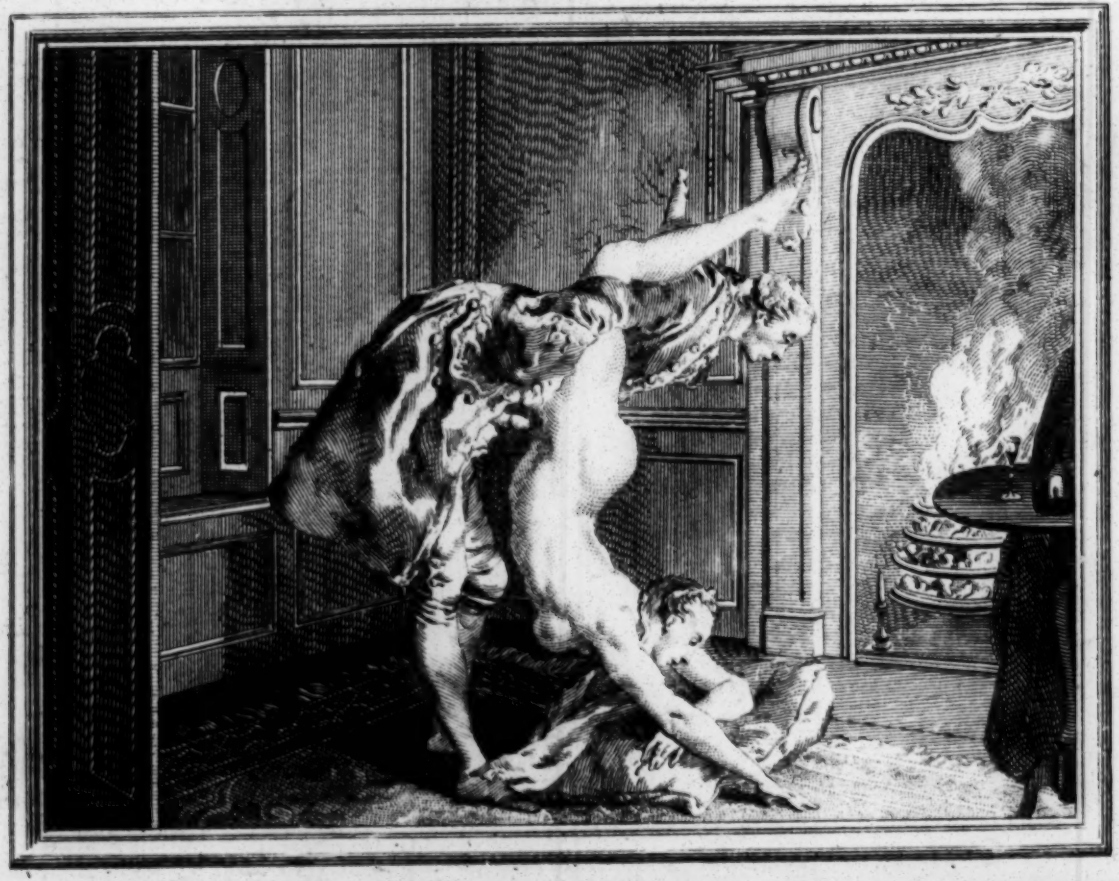

in his agitations, and endeavours to enter that way, whilſt his belly battered directly againſt the recent ſore: what ſhould we do now? both intolerably heated! both all in one fury! but pleaſure is ever inventive for its own ends: he ſtrips me in a trice, ſtark naked, and placing a broad ſettee-cuſhion on the carpet before the fire, overſets me gently topſy-turvy on it; and handling me only at the waiſt, whilſt you may be ſure I favoured all his diſpoſitions, brought my legs round his neck; ſo that my head was kept from the floor only by my hands, and the velvet cuſhion, which was now beſpread with my flowing hair: thus I ſtood on my head and hands, ſupported by him in ſuch manner, that whilſt my thighs clung round him, ſo as to expoſe to his ſight all my back-figure, including the theatre of his bloody pleaſure, the center of my forepart fairly bearded the now worthy object of its rage, that now ſtood in fine condition to give me ſatisfaction for the injuries of its neighbours. But as this poſture was certainly not the eaſieſt, and our imagination, wound up to the heighth, could ſuffer no delay; he firſt, with the utmoſt eagerneſs and effort, juſt lip-lodged that broad, acorn-faſhioned head of his inſtrument; and ſtill friended by the fury with which he had made that impreſſion, he ſoon ſtuffed in the reſt; when now with a purſuit of thruſts fiercely urged, he abſolutely overpowered, and abſorbed all ſenſe of pain and uneaſineſs, whether from my wounds behind, my moſt untoward poſture, or the overſize of his ſtretcher,

ſtretcher, in an infinitely predominant delight: when now all my whole ſpirits of life and ſenſation, ruſhing impetuouſly to the cock-pit, where the prize of pleaſure was hotly in diſpute, and cluſtering to a point there, I ſoon received the dear relief of nature from theſe over-violent ſtrains and provocations of it, harmonizing with which, my gallant ſpouted into me ſuch a potent overflow of the oily balſamic injection, as ſoftened and unedged all thoſe irritating ſtings of a new ſpecies of titillation, which I had been ſo intolerably maddened with, and reſtored the ferment of my ſenſes to ſome degree of compoſure.

I had now atchieved this rare adventure, ultimately much more to my ſatisfaction than I had beſpoke the nature of it to turn out, nor was it much leſſened, you may think, by my ſpark's laviſh praiſes of my conſtancy and complaiſance, which he gave weight to by a preſent that greatly paſſed my utmoſt expectation: beſides his gratification to Mrs. *Cole*.

I was not however, at any time reinticed to renew with him, or reſort again to the violent expedient of laſhing nature into more haſte than good ſpeed, which by the way, I conceive acts ſomewhat in the manner of a doſe of *Spaniſh* flies, with more pain perhaps, but leſs danger, and might be neceſſary to him; but was nothing leſs ſo, than to me, whoſe appetites wanted the bridle more than the ſpur.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Cole*, to whom this adventrous exploit had more and more endeared me, looked on me now as a girl after her own heart, afraid of nothing; and, on a good account, hardy enough to fight all the weapons of pleaſure through. Attentive then, in conſequence of theſe favourable conceptions, to promote either my profit or pleaſure, ſhe had ſpecial regard for the firſt, in the new gallant of a very ſingular turn, that ſhe procured for, and introduced to me.

This was a grave, ſtaid, ſolemn, elderly gentleman, whoſe peculiar humour was a delight in combing fine treſſes of hair, and as I was perfectly headed to his taſte, he uſed to come conſtantly at my toilette hours, when I let down my hair as looſe as nature; and abandoned it to him, to do what he pleaſed with it; and accordingly he would keep me an hour, or more, in play with it, drawing the comb through it, winding the curls round his fingers, even kiſſing it as he ſmoothed it, and all this led to no other uſe of my perſon, or any other liberties whatever, any more than if a diſtinction of ſexes had not exiſted.

Another peculiarity of taſte he had, which was to preſent me at once with a dozen pair of the whiteſt kid-gloves at a time: theſe he would divert himſelf with drawing on me, and then biting off their fingers ends; all which fooleries of a ſickly appetite, the old gentleman paid more liberally for, than moſt others did for more eſſential favours. This laſted till a violent cough ſeizing

ſeizing and laying him up, delivered me from this moſt innocent, and moſt inſipid trifler; for I never heard more of him, after his firſt retreat.

You may be ſure a by-job of this ſort interfered with no other purſuit, or plan of life, which I led in truth with a modeſty and reſerve that was leſs the work of virtue, than of exhauſted novelty, a glut of pleaſure, and eaſy circumſtances, that made me indifferent to any engagements in which pleaſure and profit were not eminently united; and ſuch I could with the leſs impatience wait for at the hands of time and fortune, as I was ſatisfied I could never mend my pennyworths, having evidently been ſerved at the top of the market, and even been pampered with dainties; beſides that, in the ſacrifice of a few momentary impulſes, I found a ſecret ſatisfaction in reſpecting myſelf, as well as preſerving the life and freſhneſs of my complexion. *Louiſa* and *Emila* did not carry indeed their reſerve as high as I did, but ſtill they were far from cheap or abandoned, though two of their adventures ſeemed to contradict this general character, which for their ſingularity I ſhall give you in courſe, beginning firſt with *Emily*'s.

Louiſa and ſhe went one night to a ball; the firſt in the habit of a ſhepherdeſs, *Emily* in that of a ſhepherd: I ſaw them in their dreſſes before they went, and nothing in nature could repreſent a prettier boy than this laſt did; being ſo extremely fair and well limbed. They had kept together for ſome time, when *Louiſa* meeting with

with an old acquaintance of hers, very cordially gives her companion the drop, and leaves her under the protection of her boy's habit, which was not much, and of her diſcretion which was, it ſeems, yet leſs. *Emily* finding herſelf deſerted, ſauntered thoughtleſly about a while, and as much for coolneſs and air, as any thing elſe, pulled off her maſk, at length, and went to the ſide-board, where, eyed and marked out by a gentleman in a very handſome domino, ſhe was accoſted by, and fell into chat with him. The domino, after a little diſcourſe, in which *Emily* doubtleſs diſtinguiſhed her good nature and eaſineſs more than her wit, began to make violent love to her, and drawing her inſenſibly to ſome benches at the lower end of the maſquerade-room, got her to ſit by him, where he ſqueezed her hands, pinched her cheeks, praiſed and played with her fair hair, admired her complexion, and all in a ſtyle of courtſhip daſhed with a certain oddity, that not comprehending the myſtery of, poor *Emily* attributed to his falling in with the humour of her diſguiſe, and being naturally not the cruelleſt of her profeſſion, began to incline to a parley on eſſentials: but here was the ſtreſs of the joke: he took her really for what ſhe appeared to be, a ſmock-faced boy, and ſhe forgetting her dreſs, and of courſe ranging quite wide of his ideas, took all thoſe addreſſes to be paid to herſelf as a woman, which ſhe preciſely owed to his not thinking her one: however this double error was puſhed to ſuch a height on both ſides, that

that *Emily* who ſaw nothing in him but a gentleman of diſtinction by thoſe points of dreſs, to which his diſguiſe did not extend, warmed too by the wine he had plied her with, and the careſſes he had laviſhed upon her, ſuffered herſelf to be perſwaded to go to a bagnio with him; and thus loſing ſight of Mrs. *Cole*'s cautions, with a blind confidence put herſelf into his hands to be carried wherever he pleaſed: on his part, equally blinded by his wiſhes, whilſt her egregious ſimplicity favoured his deception more than the moſt exquiſite art could have done, he ſuppoſed, no doubt, that he had lighted on ſome ſoft ſimpleton fit for his purpoſe, or ſome kept minion broke to his hand, who underſtood him perfectly well, and entered into his deſigns; but be that as it would, he led her to a coach, went into it with her, and brought her into a very handſome apartment with a bed in it, but whether it were a bagnio or not, ſhe could not tell, having ſpoke to nobody but himſelf. But when they were alone together, and her *enamorato* began to proceed to thoſe extremities which inſtantly diſcover the ſex, ſhe remarked that no deſcription could paint up to the life, the mixture of pique, confuſion, and diſappointment, that appeared in his countenance, which was joined to the mournful exclamation, "By heavens a woman!" This at once opened her eyes, which had hitherto been ſhut in downright ſtupidity. However, as if he had meant to retrieve that eſcape, he ſtill continued to toy with and fondle her, but with ſo

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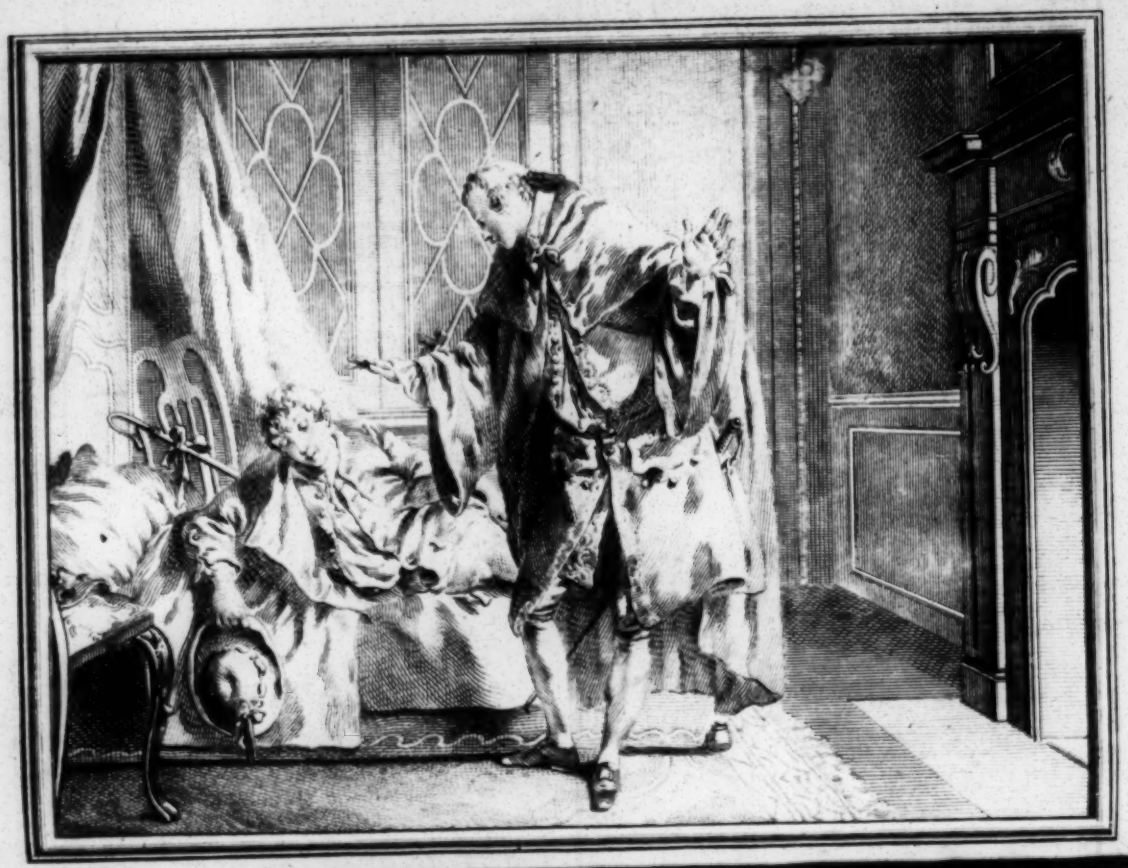

ſtaring an alteration from extreme warmth into a chill and forced civility, that even *Emily* herſelf could not but take notice of it, and now began to wiſh ſhe had paid more regard to Mrs. *Cole*'s premonitions againſt ever engaging with a ſtranger: and now an exceſs of timidity ſucceeded to an exceſs of confidence, and ſhe thought herſelf ſo much at his mercy and diſcretion, that ſhe ſtood paſſive throughout the whole progreſs of his prelude: for now, whether the impreſſions of ſo great a beauty had even made him forgive her her ſex, or whether her appearance or figure in that dreſs ſtill humoured his firſt illuſion, he recovered by degrees a good part of his firſt warmth, and keeping *Emily* with her breeches ſtill unbuttoned, ſtript them down to her knees, and gently impelling her to lean down, with her face againſt the bed-ſide, placed her ſo, that the double-way between the double riſing behind, preſented the choice fair to him, and he was ſo fiercely ſet on a miſ-direction, as to give the girl no ſmall alarms for fear of loſing a maidenhead ſhe had not dreamt of; however her complaints, and a reſiſtance gentle, but firm, checked, and brought him to himſelf again; ſo that turning his ſteed's head, he drove him at length in the right road, in which his imagination having probably made the moſt of thoſe reſemblances that flattered his taſte, he got with much ado whip and ſpur to his journey's end: after which he led her out himſelf, and walking with her two or three ſtreets length, got her a chair, when making her a preſent

a preſent not any thing inferior to what ſhe could have expected, he left her, well recommended to the chairmen, who on her directions, brought her home.

This ſhe related to Mrs. *Cole* and me, the ſame morning, not without the viſible remains of the fear and confuſion ſhe had been in, ſtill ſtamped on her countenance. Mrs. *Cole*'s remark was, that her indiſcretion proceeding from a conſtitutional facility, there were little hopes of any thing curing her of it, but repeated ſevere experience. Mine was that I could not conceive how it was poſſible for mankind to run into a taſte, not only univerſally odious, but abſurd, and impoſſible to gratify, ſince, according to the notions and experience I had of things, it was not in nature to force ſuch immenſe diſproportions: Mrs. *Cole* only ſmiled at my ignorance, and ſaid nothing towards my undeception, which was not effected but by occular demonſtration, ſome months after, which a moſt ſingular accident furniſhed me, and I will here ſet down, that I may not return again to ſo diſagreeable a ſubject.

I had on a viſit intended to *Harriet*, who had lodgings at *Hampton-Court*, hired a chariot to go out thither, Mrs. *Cole* having promiſed to accompany me: but ſome indiſpenſible buſineſs intervening to detain her, I was obliged to ſet out alone; and ſcarce had I got a third of my way, before the axle-tree broke down, and I was well off, to get out ſafe and unhurt, into a publick-houſe of a tolerably handſome appearance, on the road.

road. Here the people told me that the ſtage would come by in a couple of hours at fartheſt, upon which, determining to wait for it, ſooner than loſe the jaunt I had got ſo far forward on, I was carried into a very clean decent room up one pair of ſtairs, which I took poſſeſſion of for the time I had to ſtay, in right of calling for ſufficient to do the houſe juſtice.

Here, whilſt I was amuſing myſelf with looking out of the window, a ſingle-horſe-chaiſe ſtopt at the door, out of which lightly leaped two young gentlemen, for ſo they ſeemed, who came in as it were only to bait and refreſh a little, for they gave their horſe to be held in a readineſs againſt they came out: and preſently I heard the door of the next room to me open, where they were let in and called about them briſkly, and as ſoon as they were ſerved, I could juſt hear that they ſhut and faſtened the door on the inſide.

A ſpirit of curioſity far from ſudden, ſince I do not know when I was without it, prompted me, without any particular ſuſpicion, or other drift, or view, to ſee who they were, and examine their perſons and behaviour. The partition of our rooms was one of thoſe moveable ones that when taken down, ſerved occaſionally to lay them into one, for the convenience of a large company; and now my niceſt ſearch could not ſhew me the ſhadow of a peep-hole, a circumſtance which probably had not eſcaped the review of the parties on the other ſide, whom much it ſtood upon not to be deceived in it; but at length

I obſerved a paper patch of the ſame colour as the wainſcot, which I took to conceal ſome flaw, but then it was ſo high, that I was obliged to ſtand on a chair to reach it, which I did as ſoftly as poſſible, and with the point of a bodkin ſoon pierced it, and opened myſelf eſpial-room ſufficient: and now applying my eye cloſe, I commanded the room perfectly, and could ſee my two young ſparks romping, and pulling one another about, entirely to my imagination, in frolic, and innocent play.

The eldeſt might be, on my neareſt gueſs, towards nineteen, a tall comely young man, in a white fuſtian frock, with a green velvet cape, and a cut bob-wig.

The youngeſt could not be above ſeventeen, fair, ruddy, compleatly well made, and to ſay the truth, a ſweet pretty ſtripling: he was, I fancy too, a country lad by his dreſs, which was a green pluſh frock, and breeches of the ſame, white waiſtcoat and ſtockings, a jockey cap, with his yellowiſh hair long, and looſe, in natural curls.

But after a look of circumſpection which I ſaw the eldeſt caſt every way round the room, probably in too much hurry and heat not to overlook the very ſmall opening I was poſted at, eſpecially at the height it was, whilſt my eye too cloſe to it, kept the light from ſhining through, and betraying it; he ſaid ſomething to his companion that preſently changed the face of things.

For

For now the elder began to embrace, to preſs, to kiſs the younger, to put his hands in his boſom, and give ſuch manifeſt ſigns of an amorous intention, as made me conclude the other to be a girl in diſguiſe, a miſtake that nature kept me in countenance in, for ſhe had certainly made one, when ſhe gave him the male ſtamp.

In the raſhneſs then of their age, and bent as they were to accompliſh their project of prepoſterous pleaſure, at the riſque of the very worſt of conſequences, where a diſcovery was nothing leſs than improbable, they now proceeded to ſuch lengths as ſoon ſatisfied me, what they were.

For preſently the eldeſt unbuttoned the other's breeches, and removing the linen barrier, brought out to view a white ſhaft, middle-ſized, and ſcarce fledged, when after handling, and playing with it a little, with other dalliance, all received by the boy without other oppoſition, than certain wayward coyneſſes, ten times more alluring than repulſive, he got him to turn round with his face from him, to a chair that ſtood hard by, when knowing, I ſuppoſe, his office, the Ganymede now obſequiouſly leaned his head againſt the back of it, and projecting his body, made a fair mark, ſtill covered with his ſhirt, as he thus ſtood in a ſide-view to me but fronting his companion, who preſently unmaſking his battery, produced an engine, that certainly deſerved to be put to a better uſe, and very fit to confirm me in my diſbelief of the poſſibility of things being puſhed to odious extremities, which I had built

on the diſproportion of parts; but this diſbelief I was now to be cured of, as by my conſent all young men ſhould likewiſe be, that their innocence may not be betrayed into ſuch ſnares, for want of knowing the extent of their danger, for nothing is more certain than, that ignorance of a vice, is by no means a guard againſt it.

Slipping then aſide the young lad's ſhirt, and tucking it up under his cloaths behind, he ſhewed to the open air, thoſe globular, fleſhy eminences that compoſe the mount-pleaſants of *Rome*, and which now, with all the narrow vale that interſects them, ſtood diſplayed, and expoſed to his attack: nor could I, without a ſhudder, behold the diſpoſitions he made for it. Firſt then, moiſtening well with ſpittle his inſtrument, obviouſly to render it glib, he pointed, he introduced it, as I could plainly diſcern, not only from its direction, and my loſing ſight of it; but by the writhing, twiſting, and ſoft murmured complaints of the young ſufferer; but, at length, the firſt ſtreights of entrance being pretty well got through, every thing ſeemed to move, and go pretty currently on, as in a carpet-road, without much rub, or reſiſtance: and now paſſing one hand round his minion's hips, he got hold of his red-topt ivory toy, that ſtood perfectly ſtiff, and ſhewed, that if he was like his mother behind, he was like his father before; this he diverted himſelf with, whilſt with the other, he wantoned with his hair, and leaning forward over his back, drew his face, from which the boy ſhook the

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fully bent on grappling with it, and impatient of dalliance or delay, directed faithfully the point of the battering piece, and bounded up with a rage of ſo voracious appetite, to meet, and favour the thruſt of inſertion, that the fierce activity on both ſides, effected it, but effected it with ſuch a pain of diſtention, that *Louiſa* cried out violently, that ſhe was hurt beyond all bearing, that ſhe was killed: but it was too late; the ſtorm was up, and force was on her to give way to it: For now the man-machine, ſtrongly worked upon by the ſenſual paſſion, felt ſo manfully his advantages, and ſuperiority, felt withal the ſting of pleaſure ſo intolerable, that maddening with it, his joys began to aſſume a character of furiouſneſs which made me tremble for the too tender *Louiſa*: he ſeemed at this juncture greater than himſelf; his countenance, before ſo void of meaning, or expreſſion, now grew big with the importance of the act he was upon. In ſhort, it was not now that he was to be played the fool with: but what is pleaſant enough, I myſelf was awed into a ſort of reſpect for him, by the comely terrors his emotions dreſt him in: his eyes ſhooting ſparks of fire, his face glowing with ardors that gave all another life to it: his teeth churning; his whole frame agitated with a raging ungovernable impetuoſity, all ſenſibly betraying the formidable fierceneſs with which the genial inſtinct acted upon him: butting then, and goring all before him, and mad, and wild, like an over-driven ſteer, he ploughs up the tender furrow, all inſenſible

ſenſible of *Louiſa*'s complaints: nothing can ſtop, nothing can keep out a fury like his; which having once got its head in, its blind rage ſoon made way for the reſt, piercing, rending, and breaking open all obſtruction: the torn, ſplit, wounded girl cries, ſtruggles, invokes me to her reſcue, and endeavours to get from under the young ſavage, or ſhake him off, but alas, in vain! her breath might as ſoon have ſtilled a ſtorm in winter, as all her ſtrength have quelled his rough aſſault, or put him out of his courſe: and indeed all her efforts, and ſtruggles were managed in ſuch diſorder, that they ſerved rather to entangle, and fold her the faſter in the twine of his boiſterous arms; ſo that ſhe was tied to the ſtake, and obliged to fight the match out, if ſhe died for it: for his part, inſtinct-ridden as he was, the expreſſions of his animal paſſion partaking ſomething of ferocity, were rather worryings than kiſſes, intermixed with eager ravenous love-bites on her cheeks and neck; the prints of which did not wear out for ſome days after.

Poor *Louiſa*, however, bore up at length better than could have been expected, and though ſhe ſuffered, and greatly too, yet ever true to the good old cauſe, ſhe ſuffered with pleaſure, and enjoyed her pain: and ſoon now, by dint of an enraged enforcement, the brute-machine, driven like a whirlwind, made all ſmoak again, and wedging its way up, to the utmoſt extremity, left her in point of penetration nothing either to fear, or to deſire, and now,

" *Gorg'd*

the looſe curls that fell over it, in the poſture he ſtood him in, and brought him towards his, ſo as to receive a long-breathed kiſs, after which, renewing his driving, and thus continuing to harraſs his rear, the height of the fit came on with its uſual ſymptoms, and diſmiſſed the action.

All this, ſo criminal a ſcene, I had the patience to ſee to an end, purely that I might gather more facts, and certainty againſt them in my full deſign to do their deſerts inſtant juſtice, and accordingly, when they had readjuſted themſelves, and were preparing to go out, burning as I was with rage, and indignation, I jumped down from my chair, in order to raiſe the houſe upon them, with ſuch an unlucky impetuoſity, that ſome nail or ruggedneſs in the floor caught my foot, and flung me on my face with ſuch violence, that I fell ſenſeleſs on the ground, and muſt have lain there ſome time e'er any one came to my relief, ſo that they, alarmed, I ſuppoſe, by the noiſe of my fall, had more than the neceſſary time to make a ſafe retreat, which they effected, as I learnt, with a precipitation nobody could account for, till, when come to myſelf, and compoſed enough to ſpeak, I acquainted thoſe of the houſe with the tranſaction I had been evidence to.

When I came home again, and told Mrs. *Cole* this adventure, ſhe very ſenſibly obſerved to me, that there was no doubt of due vengeance one time or other overtaking theſe miſcreants, however they might eſcape for the preſent; and that, had I been the temporal inſtrument of it, I ſhould

have been, at leaſt, put to a great deal more trouble and confuſion than I imagine: that as to the thing itſelf, the leſs ſaid of it was the better; but that though ſhe might be ſuſpected of partiality, from its being the common cauſe of womankind, out of whoſe *mouths* this practice tended to take ſomething more precious than bread, yet ſhe proteſted againſt any mixture of paſſion, with a declaration extorted from her by pure regard to truth, which was, "*that* whatever effect this infamous paſſion had in other ages, and other countries, it ſeemed a peculiar bleſſing on our air and climate, that there was a plague-ſpot viſibly imprinted on all that are tainted with it, in this nation at leaſt; for that among numbers of that ſtamp whom ſhe had known, or at leaſt were univerſally under the ſcandalous ſuſpicion of it, ſhe could not name an exception hardly of one of them, whoſe character was not in all other reſpects the moſt worthleſs and deſpicable that could be, ſtript of all the manly virtues of their own ſex, and filled up with only the very worſt vices and follies of ours: that, in fine, they were ſcarce leſs execrable than ridiculous in their monſtrous inconſiſtency, of loathing and contemning women, and all at the ſame time, aping their manners, airs, liſp, ſkuttle, and in general, all their little modes of affectation, which become them at leaſt better, than they do theſe unſexed male miſſes."

But

But here, waſhing my hands of them, I replunge into the ſtream of my hiſtory, into which I may very properly ingraft a terrible ſally of *Louiſa*'s, ſince I had ſome ſhare in it myſelf, and have beſides engaged myſelf to relate it, in point of countenance to poor *Emily*. It will add too one more example to thouſands, in confirmation of the maxim, that when women get once out of compaſs, there are no lengths of licentiouſneſs they are not capable of running.

One morning then, that both Mrs. *Cole* and *Emily*, were gone out for the day, and only *Louiſa* and I (not to mention the houſe-maid) were left in charge of the houſe; whilſt we were loitering away the time, in looking through the ſhop-windows, the ſon of a poor woman who earned very hard bread indeed by mending of ſtockings, in a ſtall in the neighbourhood, offers us ſome noſegays ranged round a ſmall baſket; by ſelling of which the poor boy eked out his mother's maintenance of them both: nor was he fit for any other way of livelihood, ſince he was not only a perfect changeling, or idiot, but ſtammered ſo that there was no underſtanding even thoſe ſounds that his half-a-dozen, at moſt, animal ideas prompted him to utter.

The boys, and ſervants in the neighbourhood, had given him the nick-name of *Good-natured Dick*, from the ſoft ſimpleton's doing every thing he was bid to do at the firſt word, and from his naturally having no turn to miſchief; then, by the way, he was perfectly well made, ſtout, and

clean-limb'd, tall of his age, as ſtrong as a horſe, and, with all, pretty featured; ſo that he was not abſolutely ſuch a figure to be ſnuffed at neither, if your nicety could, in favour of ſuch eſſentials, have diſpenſed with a face unwaſhed, hair tangled for want of combing, and ſo ragged a plight, that he might have diſputed points of ſhew, with e'er a heathen philoſopher of them all.

This boy we had often ſeen, and bought his flowers, out of pure compaſſion, and nothing more: but juſt at this time, as he ſtood preſenting us his baſket, a ſudden whim, a ſtart of wayward fancy ſeized *Louiſa*, and without conſulting me, ſhe calls him in, and began to examine his noſegays, culls out two, one for herſelf, another for me, and pulling out half-a-crown, very currently gives it him to change, as if ſhe had really expected he could have changed it: but the boy ſcratching his head, made his ſigns explain his inability, in place of words, that he could not with all his ſtruggling articulate.

Louiſa at this, ſays: "Well, my lad, come "up ſtairs with me, and I will give you your "due." Winking at the ſame time to me, and beckoning me to accompany her, which I did, ſecuring firſt the ſtreet-door, that by this means, together with the ſhop, became wholly the care of the faithful houſe-maid.

As we went up, *Louiſa* whiſpered me, that ſhe had conceived a ſtrange longing to be ſatisfied, whether the general rule held good with regard to this changeling, and how far nature had made him

him amends in her beſt bodily gifts, for her denial of the ſublimer intellectual ones; begging at the ſame time my aſſiſtance in procuring her this ſatisfaction: a want of complaiſance was never my vice, and I was ſo far from oppoſing this extravagant frolic, that now, bit with the ſame maggot, and my curioſity conſpiring with hers, I entered plum into it, on my own account.

Conſequently, as ſoon as we came into *Louiſa*'s bed-chamber, whilſt ſhe was amuſing him with picking out his noſegays, I undertook the lead, and began the attack: as it was not then very material to keep much meaſures with a mere natural, I made preſently very free with him, though at my firſt motion of meddling, his ſurpriſe and confuſion made him receive my advances but aukwardly; nay, inſomuch that he baſhfully ſhyed, and ſhyed back a little, till encouraging him with my eyes, plucking him playfully by the hair, ſleeking his cheeks, and forwarding my point by a number of little wantonneſs, I ſoon turned him familiar, and gave nature her ſweeteſt alarm; ſo that arouzed, and beginning to feel himſelf, we could, amidſt all the innocent laugh and grin I had provoked him into, perceive the fire lighting in his eyes, and diffuſing over his cheeks, blend its glow with that of his bluſhes; the emotion in ſhort of animal pleaſure glared diſtinctly in the ſimpleton's countenance; yet ſtruck with the novelty of the ſcene, he did not know which way to look or move; but tame, paſſive,

paſſive, ſimpering, with his mouth half open, in ſtupid rapture, ſtood, and tractably ſuffered me to do what I pleaſed with him: his baſket was dropt out of his hands, which *Louiſa* took care of.

I had now, through more than one rent, diſcovered and felt his thighs, the ſkin of which ſeemed the ſmoother and fairer for the coarſeneſs, and even dirt of his dreſs; as the teeth of Negroes ſeem the whiter for the ſurrounding black: and poor indeed of habit! poor of underſtanding! he was however abundantly rich in perſonal treaſures, ſuch as fleſh, firm, plump, and replete with the ſweet juices of youth, and robuſt well-knit limbs. My fingers too had now got within reach of the true, the genuine ſenſitive plant, which inſtead of ſhrinking from the touch, joys to meet it, and ſwells, and vegetates under it: mine pleaſingly informing me that matters were ſo ripe for the diſcovery we meditated, that they were too mighty for the confinement they were ready to break; a waiſtband that I unſkewered, and a rag of ſhirt that I removed, and which could not have covered a quarter of it, revealed the whole of the ideot's ſtandard of diſtinction, erect, in full pride and diſplay: but ſuch an one! it was poſitively of ſo tremendous a ſize, that prepared as we were to ſee ſomething extraordinary, it ſtill, out of meaſure ſurpaſſed our expectation, and aſtoniſhed even me, who had not been uſed to trade in trifles: in fine, it might have anſwered very well the making a ſhew of: its enormous

mous head ſeemed in hue and ſize, not unlike a common ſheep's heart; then you might have trolled dice ſecurely along the broad back of the body of it: the length of it too was prodigious; then the rich appendage of the treaſure-bag beneath, large in proportion, gathered, and criſped up, round, in ſhallow furrows, helped to fill the eye, and complete the proof of his being a natural, not quite in vain, ſince it was full manifeſt that he inherited, and largely too, the prerogative of majeſty, which diſtinguiſhes that otherwiſe moſt unfortunate condition, and gives riſe to the vulgar ſaying, "That a fool's bauble is a lady's "play-fellow." Nor wholly without reaſon; for generally ſpeaking, it is in love, as it is in war, where the longeſt weapon carries it. Nature, in ſhort, had done ſo much to him in thoſe parts, that ſhe perhaps held herſelf acquitted for doing ſo little for his head.

For my part, who had ſincerely no intention to puſh the joke further than ſimply ſatisfying my curioſity with the ſight of it alone, I was content in ſpite of the temptation that ſtared me in the face, with having raiſed a may-pole for another to hang a garland on; for by this time, eaſily reading *Louiſa*'s deſires in her wiſhful eyes, I acted the commodious part, and made her, who ſought no better ſport, ſignificant ſigns of encouragement to go through-ſtitch with the adventure: intimating too that I would ſtay and ſee fair play; in which indeed I had in view to humour a newborn curioſity, to obſerve what appearances active

nature

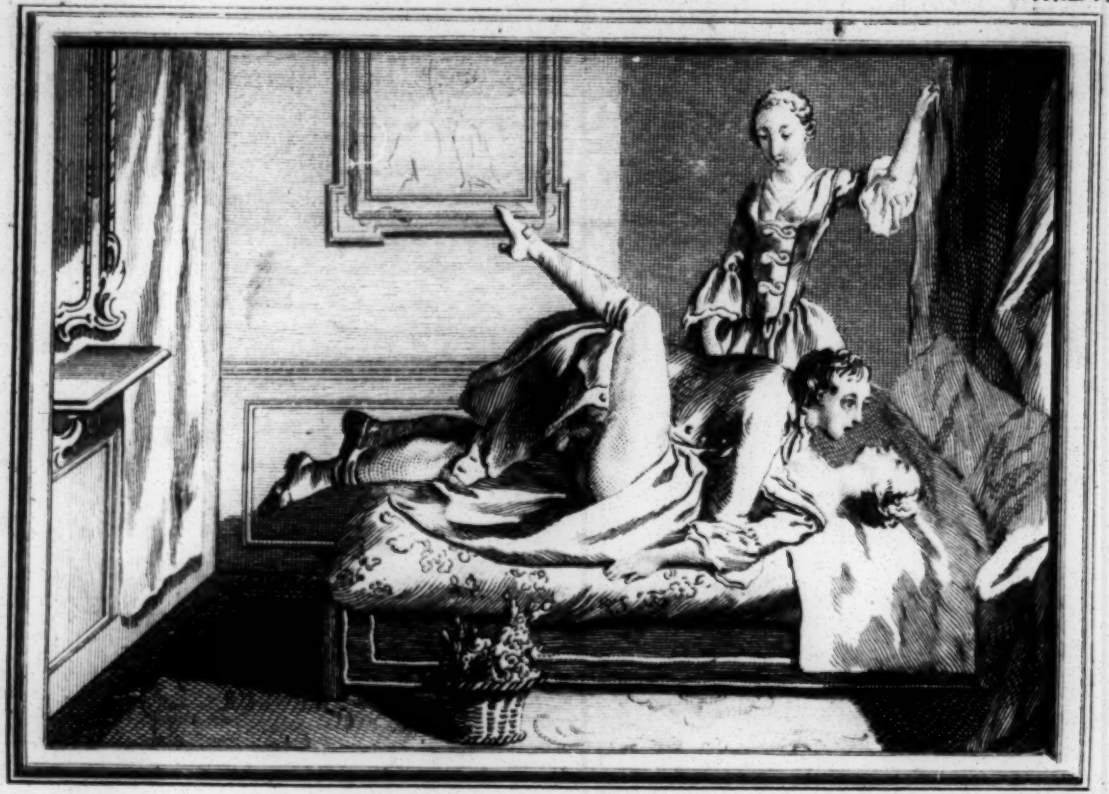
nature would put on in a natural, in the courſe of this her darling operation.

Louiſa, whoſe appetite was up, and who, like the induſtrious bee, was it ſeems, not above gathering the ſweets of ſo rare a flower, tho' ſhe found it planted on a dunghill, was but too readily diſpoſed to take the benefit of my ceſſion: urged then ſtrongly by her own deſires, and emboldened by me, ſhe preſently determined to riſque a trial of parts with the idiot, who was by this time nobly inflamed for her purpoſe, by all the irritations we had uſed to put the principles of pleaſure effectually into motion, and to wind up the ſprings of its organ to their ſupreme pitch: and it ſtood accordingly ſtiff and ſtraining, ready to burſt with the blood and ſpirits that ſwelled it to a bulk! No! I ſhall never forget it.

Louiſa then taking and holding the fine handle that ſo invitingly offered itſelf, led the ductile youth by that maſter-tool of his, as we ſtept backward towards the bed, which he joyfully gave way to, under the incitations of inſtinct, and palpably delivered up to the goad of deſire.

Stopt then by the bed, ſhe took the fall ſhe loved, and leaned to the moſt, gently backward upon it, ſtill holding faſt what ſhe held, and taking care to give her cloaths a convenient toſs up, ſo that her thighs duly diſcloſed, and elevated, laid open all the outward proſpect of the treaſury of love: the roſe-lipt ouverture preſenting the cock-pit ſo fair, that it was not in nature even for a natural to miſs it: nor did he; for *Louiſa*,

fully



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" *Gorg'd with the deareſt morſel of the earth.*"
Shakeſpear.

Louiſa lay, pleaſed to the heart, pleaſed to her utmoſt capacity of being ſo, with every fibre in thoſe parts, ſtretched almoſt to breaking, on a rack of joy, whilſt the inſtrument of all this overfulneſs, ſearched her ſenſes with its ſweet exceſs, till the pleaſure gained upon her ſo, its point ſtung her ſo home, that catching at length the rage from her furious driver, and ſharing the riot of his wild rapture, ſhe went wholly out of her mind into that favourite part of her body, the whole intenſeneſs of which was ſo fervorouſly filled and employed: there alone ſhe exiſted, all loſt in theſe delirious tranſports, thoſe extaſies of the ſenſes, which her winking eyes, the brightened vermillion of her lips, and cheeks, and ſighs of pleaſure deeply fetched, ſo pathetically expreſſed. In ſhort, ſhe was now as meer a machine, as much wrought on, and had her motions as little at her own command, as the natural himſelf, who thus broke in upon her, made her feel with a vengeance his tempeſtuous tenderneſs, and the force of mettle he battered with: their active loins quivered again with the violence of their conflict, till the ſurge of pleaſure foaming, and raging to a height, drew down the pearly ſhower that was to allay this hurricane: the purely ſenſitive ideot then firſt ſhed thoſe tears of joy that attend its laſt moments, not without an agony

agony of delight, and even almoſt a roar of rapture, as the guſh eſcaped him, ſo ſenſibly too for *Louiſa*, that ſhe kept him faithful company, going off, in conſent, with the old ſymptoms; a delicious delirium, a tremulous convulſive ſhudder, and the critical dying oh! And now, on his getting off, ſhe lay pleaſure-drenched and regorging its eſſential ſweets: but quite ſpent, but gaſping for breath, without other ſenſation of life than in thoſe exquiſite vibrations, that trembled yet on the ſtrings of delight, which had been ſo raviſhingly touched; and which nature had been too intenſely ſtirred with, for the ſenſes to be quickly at peace from.

As for the changeling, whoſe curious engine had been thus ſucceſsfully played off, his ſhift of countenance and geſture had even ſomething droll, or rather tragi-comic in it: there was now an air of ſad, repining fooliſhneſs, ſuperadded to his natural one of no-meaning, and ideotiſm; as he ſtood with his label of manhood, now lank, unſtiffened, becalmed, and flapping againſt his thighs, down which it reached half-way, terrible even in its fall: whilſt, under the dejection of ſpirit and fleſh, which naturally followed, his eyes, by turns caſt down towards his ſtruck ſtandard, or piteouſly lifted to *Louiſa*, ſeemed to require at her hands what he had ſo ſenſibly parted from to her, and now ruefully miſſed; but the vigor of nature ſoon returning, diſſipated this blaſt of faintneſs which the common law of enjoyment had ſubjected him to; and now his baſket re-

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became his main concern, which I looked for, and brought him, whilſt *Louiſa* reſtored his dreſs to its uſual condition, and afterwards pleaſed him perhaps more by taking all his flowers off his hands, and paying him at his rate, for them, than if ſhe had embarraſſed him by a preſent, that he would have been puzzled to account for, and might have put others on tracing the motives of it.

Whether ſhe ever returned to the attack, I know not, and to ſay the truth, I believe not; ſhe had had her freak out, and had pretty plentifully drowned her curioſity in a glut of pleaſure, which as it happened, had no other conſequence, than that the lad, who retained only a confuſed memory of the tranſaction, would when he ſaw her, for ſome little time after, expreſs a grin of joy, and familiarity, after his ideot manner, and ſoon forgot her, probably in favour of the next woman tempted on the report of his parts to take him in.

Louiſa too herſelf did not long out-ſtay this adventure, at Mrs. *Cole*'s (to whom, by the bye, we took care not to boaſt of our exploit, till all fear of conſequences was clearly over:) for, an occaſion preſenting itſelf of proving her paſſion for a young fellow, at the expence of her diſcretion, proceeding all in character, ſhe packed up her toilette, at half a day's warning, and went with him abroad, ſince which I loſt entirely ſight of her, and it never fell in my way to hear what became of her.

But a few days after ſhe had left us, two very pretty young gentlemen, who were Mrs. *Cole*'s ſpecial favourites, and free of her academy, eaſily obtained her conſent for *Emily*'s and my acceptance of a party of pleaſure, at a little, but agreeable houſe, belonging to one of them, ſituate not far up the river *Thames*, on the *Surry* ſide.

Every thing being ſettled, and it being a fine ummer-day, but rather of the warmeſt, we ſet out after dinner, and got to our rendezvous, about four in the afternoon, where landing at the foot of a neat, joyous pavilion, *Emily* and I were handed into it, by our ſquires, and there drank tea with a chearfulneſs and gaiety, that the beauty of the proſpect, the ſerenity of the weather, and the tender politeneſs of our ſprightly gallants, naturally led us into.

After tea, and taking a turn in the garden, my particular, who was the maſter of the houſe, and had in no ſenſe ſchemed this party of pleaſure for a dry one; propoſed to us, with that frankneſs which his familiarity at Mrs. *Cole*'s entitled him to, as the weather was exceſſive hot, to bathe together, under a commodious ſhelter that he had prepared expreſly for that purpoſe, in a creek of the river, with which a ſide-door of the pavilion immediately communicated, and where we might be ſure of having our diverſion out, ſafe from interruption, and with the utmoſt privacy.

Emily, who never refuſed any thing, and I, who ever delighted in bathing, and had no exception to the perſon who propoſed it, or to thoſe

thoſe pleaſures it was eaſy to gueſs it implied, took care, on this occaſion, not to wrong our training at Mrs. *Cole*'s, and agreed to it, with as good a grace as we could. Upon which, without loſs of time, we returned inſtantly to the pavilion, one door of which opened into a tent, pitched before it, that with its marquiſe, formed a pleaſing defence againſt the ſun, or the weather, and was beſides as private as we could wiſh. The lining of it, imboſt cloth, repreſented a wild foreſt foliage, from the top, down to the ſides, which, in the ſame ſtuff, were figured with fluted pilaſters, with their ſpaces between filled with flower-vaſes, the whole having a gay effect upon the eye, wherever you turned it.

Then it reached ſufficiently into the water, yet contained convenient benches round it, on the dry ground, either to keep our cloaths, or,——or,——in ſhort, for more uſes than reſting upon. There was a ſide-table too, loaded with ſweet-meats, jellies, and other eatables, and bottles of wine and cordials, by way of occaſional relief from any rawneſs, or chill of the water, or from any faintneſs from whatever cauſe: and, in fact, my gallant who underſtood *chere entiere* perfectly, and who for taſte (even if you would not approve this ſpecimen of it) might have been comptroller of pleaſures to a *Roman* emperor, had left no requiſite towards convenience, or luxury, unprovided.

As ſoon as we had looked round this inviting ſpot, and every preliminary of privacy was duly

ſettled: ſtrip was the word: when the young gentlemen ſoon diſpatched the undreſſing each his partner, and reduced us to the naked confeſſion of all thoſe ſecrets of perſon, which dreſs generally hides, and which the diſcovery of, was, naturally ſpeaking, not to our diſadvantage. Our hands indeed mechinally carried towards the moſt intereſting part of us, ſkreened at firſt all from the tufted cliff downwards, till we took them away, at their deſire, and employed them, in doing them the ſame office, of helping them off with their cloaths, in the proceſs of which, there paſt all the little wantonneſſes, and frolic, that you may eaſily imagine.

As for my ſpark, he was preſently undreſt, all to his ſhirt, the fore-lappet of which, as he leaned languiſhingly on me, he ſmilingly pointed to me, to obſerve, as it bellied out, or roſe, and fell, according to the unruly ſtarts of the motion behind it; but it was ſoon fixed; for now taking off his ſhirt, and naked as a Cupid, he ſhewed it me at ſo upright a ſtand, as prepared me indeed for his application to me for inſtant eaſe: but tho' the ſight of its fine ſize was fit enough to fire me; the cooling air, as I ſtood in this ſtate of nature, joined to the deſire I had of bathing firſt, enabled me to put him off, and tranquillize him, with the remark, that a little ſuſpenſe would only ſet a keener edge on the pleaſure: leading then the way, and ſhewing our friends an example of continency, which they were giving ſigns of loſing reſpect to, we waded, hand in hand, into the

the ſtream, till it took us up to the neck, where, the no more than grateful coolneſs of the water, gave my ſenſes a delicious refreſhment from the ſultrineſs of the ſeaſon, and made me more alive, more happy in myſelf, and, in courſe, more alert, and open to voluptuous impreſſions.

Here I laved and wantoned with the water, or ſportively played with my companion, leaving *Emily* to deal with hers at diſcretion. Mine, at length, not content with making me take the plunge over head and ears, kept ſplaſhing me, and provoking me by all the little playful tricks he could deviſe, and which I ſtrove not to remain in his debt for. We gave, in ſhort, a looſe to mirth: and now, nothing would ſerve him but giving his hands the regale of going over every part of me, neck, breaſt, belly, thighs, and all the ſweet *et cetera*, ſo dear to the imagination; under the pretext of waſhing, and rubbing them; as we both ſtood in the water, no higher now than the pit of our ſtomachs, and which did not hinder him from feeling and toying with that leak that diſtinguiſhes our ſex, and is ſo wonderfully water-tight; for his fingers, in vain dilating and opening it, only let more flame than water into it, be it ſaid, without a figure: at the ſame time he made me feel his own engine, which was ſo well wound up, as to ſtand even the working in water, and he accordingly threw one arm round my neck, and was endeavouring to get the better of that harſher conſtriction bred by the ſurrounding fluid, and had in effect won his way ſo

far as to make me ſenſible of the pleaſing ſtretch of thoſe nether lips, from the in-driving machine, when, independent of my not liking that awkward mode of enjoyment, I could not help interrupting him, in order to become joint-ſpectators of a plan of joy, in hot operation between *Emily* and her partner, who impatient of the fooleries, and dalliance of the bath, had led his nymph to one of the benches on the green bank, where he was very cordially proceeding to teach her the difference betwixt jeſt and earneſt.

There ſeating her on his knee, and gliding one hand over the ſurface of that ſmooth poliſhed, ſnow-white ſkin of hers, which now doubly ſhone with a dew bright luſtre, and preſented to the touch ſomething like what one would imagine of animated ivory, eſpecially in thoſe ruby-nippled globes, which the touch is ſo fond of, and delights to make love to; with the other, he was luſciouſly exploring the ſweet ſecret of nature, in order to make room for a ſtately piece of machinery, that ſtood up-reared, between her thighs, as ſhe continued ſitting on his lap, and preſſed hard for inſtant admiſſion, which the tender *Emily*, in a fit of humour deliciouſly protracted, affecting to decline, and elude the very pleaſure ſhe ſighed for, but in a ſtyle of waywardneſs ſo prettily put on and managed, as to render it only ten times more poignant: then her eyes, all amidſt the ſofteſt, dying languiſhment, expreſſed at once a mock-denial, and extreme deſire, whilſt her ſweetneſs was zeſted with a coyneſs

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ſo pleaſingly provoking, her moods of keeping him off, were ſo attractive, that they redoubled the impetuous rage with which he covered her with kiſſes, and kiſſes that whilſt ſhe ſeemed to ſhy from or ſcuffle for, the cunning wanton contrived ſome ſly returns of, as were doubtleſs the ſweeter for the guſt ſhe gave them, of being ſtoln, or raviſhed.

Thus *Emily*, who knew no art but that which nature itſelf, in favour of her principal end, pleaſure, had inſpired her with; the art of yielding, coyed it indeed, but coyed it to the purpoſe; for with all her ſtraining, her wreſtling, and ſtriving to break from the claſp of his arms, ſhe was ſo far wiſer yet than to mean it, that, in her ſtruggles, it was viſible, that ſhe aimed at nothing more than multiplying points of touch with him, and drawing yet cloſer the folds tha held them every where entwin'd, like two tendrils of a vine intercurling together, ſo that the ſame effect, as when *Louiſa* ſtrove in good earneſt to diſengage from the ideot, was now produced by different motives.

Mean while, their emerſion out of the cold water, had cauſed a general glow, a tender ſuffuſion of heightened carnation over their bodies; both equally white, and ſmooth-ſkinn'd; ſo that as their limbs were thus amorouſly interwoven, in ſweet confuſion, it was ſcarce poſſible to diſtinguiſh who they reſpectively belonged to, but for the brawnier, bolder muſcles of the ſtronger ſex.

In a little time however, the champion was fairly in with her, and had tied at all points the true lover's knot, when now, adieu all the little refinements of a fineſſed reluctance! adieu the tender friendly feint! ſhe was preſently driven forcibly out of the power of uſing any art: and indeed, what art but muſt give way, when nature correſponding with her ſweet aſſailant, invaded the heart of her capital, and carried by ſtorm, lay at the mercy of the proud conqueror, who had made his entry triumphantly, and completely? ſoon however to become a tributary! for the engagement growing hotter and hotter, at cloſe quarters, ſhe preſently brought him to the paſs of paying down the dear debt to nature, which ſhe had no ſooner collected in, but, like a duelliſt who has laid his antagoniſt at his feet, when he has himſelf received a mortal wound, *Emily* had ſcarce time to plume herſelf upon her victory, but ſhot with the ſame diſcharge, ſhe, in a loud expiring ſigh, in the cloſure of her eyes, the ſtretch-out of her limbs, and a remiſſion of her whole frame, gave manifeſt ſigns that all was as it ſhould be, and happily well over with her.

For my part, who had not with the calmeſt patience ſtood in the water all this time, to view this warm action, I leaned tenderly on my gallant, and, at the cloſe of it, ſeemed to aſk him with my eyes, what he thought of it; but he more eager to ſatisfy me by his actions, than by words, or looks, as we ſhoal'd the water toge-

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ther towards the ſhore, ſhewed me the ſtaff of love ſo intenſely ſet up, that had not even charity, beginning at home, in this caſe, urged me to our mutual relief, it would have been cruel indeed to have ſuffered the youth to burſt with ſtraining, when the remedy was to obvious, and ſo near at hand.

Accordingly we took to a bench, whilſt *Emily* and her ſpark, who belonged it ſeems to the ſea, ſtood at the ſide-board, drinking to our good voyage; for as the laſt obſerved, we were well under weigh, with a fair wind up channel, and full-freighted: nor indeed were we long before we finiſhed our trip to *Cytherea*, and unloaded in the old haven: but as the circumſtances did not admit of much variation, I ſhall ſpare you the deſcription.

At the ſame time, allow me to place you here an excuſe I am conſcious of owing you, for having perhaps too much affected the figurative ſtyle; though ſurely it can paſs no where more allowably than in a ſubject which is ſo properly the province of poetry, nay! is poetry itſelf, pregnant with every flower of imagination, and loving metaphors, even were not the natural expreſſions; for reſpects of faſhion and ſound neceſſarily forbid it.

Reſuming now my hiſtory, you may pleaſe to know, that what with a competent number of repetitions, all in the ſame ſtrain, (and by the bye, we have a certain natural ſenſe that thoſe repetitions are very much to the taſte of) what with

with a circle of pleaſures delicately varied, there was not a moment loſt to joy all the time we ſtaid there, till late in the night, we were re-eſcorted home by our 'ſquires, who delivered us ſafe to Mrs. *Cole*, with generous thanks for our company.

This too was *Emily*'s laſt adventure in our way; for ſcarce a week after, ſhe was, by an accident too trivial to detail to you the particulars, found out by her parents, who were in very good circumſtances, and who had been puniſhed for their partiality to their ſon, in the loſs of him, occaſioned by a circumſtance of their over-indulgence to his appetite: upon which, the ſo long engroſſed ſtream of fondneſs, running violently in favour of this loſt, and inhumanly abandoned child, whom, if they had not neglected all enquiry about, they might long before have recovered, they were now ſo overjoyed at their retrieval of her, that, I preſume, it made them much the leſs ſtrict in examining to the bottom of things; for they ſeemed very glad to take for granted, in the lump, every thing that the grave and decent Mrs. *Cole* was pleaſed to paſs upon them; and ſoon afterwards ſent her, from the country, a handſome acknowledgment.

But it was not ſo eaſy to replace to our community the loſs of ſo ſweet a member of it; for, not to mention her beauty, ſhe was one of thoſe mild, pliant characters, that if one does not entirely eſteem, one can ſcarce help loving, which

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is not ſuch a bad compenſation neither: owing all her weakneſſes to good-nature, and an indolent facility that kept her too much at the mercy of firſt impreſſions, ſhe had juſt ſenſe enough to know that ſhe wanted leading-ſtrings, and thought herſelf ſo much obliged to any who would take the pains to think for her, and guide her, that with a very little management, ſhe was capable of being made a moſt agreeable, nay, a moſt virtuous wife; for vice, it is probable, had never been her choice, or her fate, if it had not been for occaſion, or example, or had ſhe not depended leſs upon herſelf, than upon her circumſtances: this preſumption her conduct afterwards verified; for preſently meeting with a match, that was ready cut and dry for her, with a neighbour's ſon of her own rank, and a young man of ſenſe and order, who took her as the widow of one loſt at ſea, (for ſo it ſeems one of her gallants, whoſe name ſhe had made free with, really was) ſhe naturally ſtruck into all the duties of her domeſtic ſtate, with as much ſimplicity of affection, with as much conſtancy and regularity, as if ſhe had never ſwerved from undebauched innocence from her youth.

Theſe deſertions had, however, now ſo far thinned Mrs. *Cole*'s cluck, that ſhe was left with only me, like a hen with one chicken; but though ſhe was earneſtly entreated and encouraged to recruit her *corps*, her growing infirmities, and above all, the tortures of a ſtubborn hip-gout, which ſhe found would yield to no remedy,

remedy, determined her to break up her buſineſs, and retire with a decent pittance into the country, where I promiſed myſelf, nothing ſo ſure, as my going down to live with her, as ſoon as I had ſeen a little more of life, and improved my ſmall matters into a competency that would create me an independence on the world; for I was now, thanks to Mrs. *Cole*, wiſe enough to keep that eſſential in view.

Thus I was then to loſe my faithful preceptreſs, as did the philoſophers of the town the white crow of her profeſſion; for, beſides that, ſhe never ranſomed her cuſtomers, whoſe taſte too ſhe ever ſtudiouſly conſulted: beſides that ſhe never racked her pupils with unconſcionable extortions, nor ever put their hard earnings, as ſhe called them, under the contribution of poundage; ſhe was a ſevere enemy to the ſeduction of innocence, and confined her acquiſitions ſolely to thoſe unfortunate young women, who, having loſt it, were but the juſter objects of compaſſion: amongſt theſe indeed, ſhe picked out ſuch as ſuited her views, and taking them under her protection, reſcued them from the danger of the public ſinks of ruin and miſery, to place or form them, well, or ill, in the manner you have ſeen. Having then ſettled her affairs, ſhe ſet out on her journey, after taking the moſt tender leave of me, and, at the end of ſome excellent inſtructions, recommending me to myſelf, with an anxiety, perfectly maternal: in ſhort, ſhe affected me ſo much, that I was not preſently re-

reconciled to myſelf for ſuffering her, at any rate, to go without me; but fate had, it ſeems, otherwiſe diſpoſed of me.

I had, on my ſeparation from Mrs. *Cole*, taken a pleaſant convenient houſe near *Marybone*, but eaſy to rent and manage, from its ſmallneſs, which I furniſhed neatly and modeſtly: there, with a reſerve of eight hundred pounds, the fruit of my deference to Mrs. *Cole*'s counſels, excluſive of cloaths, ſome jewels, ſome plate, I ſaw myſelf in purſe for a long time, to wait without impatience for what the chapter of accidents might produce in my favour.

Here, under the new character of a young gentlewoman, whoſe huſband was gone to ſea, I had marked me out ſuch lines of life and conduct, as leaving me at a competent liberty to purſue my views, either of pleaſure or fortune, bounded me nevertheleſs ſtrictly within the rules of decency and diſcretion: a diſpoſition in which you cannot eſcape obſerving a true pupil of Mrs. *Cole*'s.

I was ſcarce however well warm in my new abode, when going out one morning pretty early to enjoy the freſhneſs of it, in the pleaſing outlet of the fields, accompanied only by a maid, whom I had newly hired; as we were careleſsly walking among the trees, we were alarmed with the noiſe of a violent coughing, turning our heads towards which, we diſtinguiſhed a plain well-dreſſed elderly gentleman, who, attacked with a ſudden fit, was ſo much overcome as to be forced

forced to give way to it, and ſit down at the foot of a tree, where he ſeemed ſuffocating with the ſeverity of it, being perfectly black in the face: not leſs moved than frightened with which I flew on the inſtant to his relief, and uſing the rote of practice I had obſerved on the like occaſion, I looſened his cravat, and clapped him on the back; but whether to any purpoſe, or whether the cough had had its courſe, I know not; but the fit went immediately off; and now recovered to his ſpeech, and legs, he returned me thanks, with as much emphaſis as if I had ſaved his life: this naturally engaging a converſation, he acquainted me where he lived, which was at a conſiderable diſtance from where I met with him, and where he had ſtrayed inſenſibly on the ſame intention of a morning walk.

He was, as I afterwards learned, in the courſe of the intimacy, which this little accident gave birth to, an old batchelor turned of ſixty, but of a freſh, vigorous complexion, inſomuch that he ſcarce marked five and forty, having never rack'd, or forced his conſtitution, by permitting his deſires to over tax his ability.

As to his birth, and condition; his parents, honeſt and failed mechanics, had by the beſt traces he could get of them, left him an infant orphan on the pariſh; ſo that it was from a charity-ſchool, that by honeſty and induſtry he made his way into a merchant's compting-houſe, from whence being ſent to a houſe at *Cadiz*, he there, by his talents and activity, acquired a fortune,

tune, but not an immenſe one; with which he returned to his native country, where he could not, however, ſo much as fiſh one ſingle relation out of the obſcurity he was born in. Taking then a taſte for retirement, and pleaſed to enjoy life, like a miſtreſs, in the dark, he flow'd his days in all the eaſe of opulence, without the leaſt parade of it, and rather ſtudying the concealment, than the ſhew of a fortune, looking down on a world he perfectly knew; himſelf, to his wiſh, unknown, and unmarked by it.

But as I propoſe to devote a letter entirely to the pleaſure of retracing to you all the particulars of my acquaintance with this, to me, memorable friend, I ſhall, in this, tranſiently touch on no more than may ſerve, as mortar, to cement, or form the connexion of my hiſtory, and to obviate your ſurpriſe, that one of my high blood, and reliſh of life, ſhould count a gallant of threeſcore ſuch a catch.

Referring then to a more explicit narrative, to explain by what progreſſions our acquaintance, certainly innocent, at firſt, inſenſibly changed nature, and ran into unplatonic lengths, as might well be expected from one of my condition of life, and above all from that principle of electricity which ſcarce ever fails of producing fire, when the ſexes meet: I ſhall only here acquaint you, that as age had not ſubdued his tenderneſs for our ſex, neither had it robb'd him of the power of pleaſing, ſince whatever he wanted in the bewitching charms of youth, he atoned for,

for, or ſupplemented with the advantages of experience, the ſweetneſs of his manners, and above all, his flattering addreſs in touching the heart by an application to the underſtanding. From him it was that I firſt learn'd to any purpoſe, and not without infinite pleaſure, that I had ſuch a portion of me worth beſtowing ſome regard on: from him I received my firſt eſſential encouragement, and inſtructions how to put it into that train of cultivation, which I have ſince puſhed to the little degree of improvement you ſee it at: he it was, who firſt taught me to be ſenſible that the pleaſures of the mind were ſuperior to thoſe of the body, at the ſame time, that they were ſo far from obnoxious to, or incompatible with each other, that beſides the ſweetneſs in the variety, and tranſition, the one ſerved to exalt and perfect the taſte of the other, to a degree that the ſenſes alone can never arrive at.

Himſelf a rational pleaſureſt, as being much too wiſe to be aſhamed of the pleaſures of humanity, lov'd me indeed, but lov'd me with dignity, in a mean equally removed from that ſourneſs, or forwardneſs which age is unpleaſingly characteriſed by, and from that childiſh ſilly dotage that ſo often diſgraces it, and which he himſelf uſed to turn into ridicule, and compare to an old goat affecting the friſk of a young kid.

In ſhort, every thing that is generally unamiable in his ſeaſon of life, was, in him, repaired

paired by ſo many advantages, that he exiſted a proof manifeſt, at leaſt to me, that it is not out of the power of age to pleaſe, if it lays out to pleaſe, and if making juſt allowances, thoſe in that claſs do not forget, that it muſt coſt them more pains, and attention, than what youth, the natural ſpring-time of joy, ſtands in need of: as fruits out of ſeaſon, require proportionably more ſkill and cultivation, to force them.

With this gentleman then, who took me home ſoon after our acquaintance commenced, I lived near eight months, in which time, my conſtant complaiſance, my docility, my attention to deſerve his confidence and love, and a conduct, in general, devoid of the leaſt art, and founded on my ſincere eſteem, and regard for him, won, and attached him ſo firmly to me, that after having generouſly truſted me with a genteel, independent ſettlement, proceeding to heap marks of affection on me, he appointed me, by an authentic will, his ſole heireſs, and executrix; a diſpoſition which he did not outlive two months, being taken from me by a violent cold that he had contracted, as he unadviſedly ran to the window, on an alarm of fire, at ſome ſtreets diſtance, and ſtood there naked-breaſted, and expoſed to the fatal impreſſions of a damp night-air.

After acquitting myſelf of my duty towards my deceaſed benefactor, and paying him a tribute of unfeigned ſorrow, which a little time changed into the moſt tender, grateful memory

of him, that I ſhall ever retain, I grew ſomewhat comforted by the proſpect that now opened to me, if not of happineſs, at leaſt of affluence, and independence.

I ſaw myſelf then, in the full bloom and pride of youth (for I was not yet nineteen) actually at the head of ſo large a fortune, as it would have been even the height of impudence in me, to have raiſed my wiſhes, much more my hopes, to: and that this unexpected elevation did not turn my head, I owed to the pains my benefactor had taken to form and prepare me for it, as I owed his opinion of my management of the vaſt poſſeſſions he left me, to what he had obſerved of the prudential œconomy I had learned under Mrs. *Cole*, of which the reſerve he ſaw I had made, was a proof and encouragement to him.

But alas! how eaſily is the enjoyment of the greateſt ſweets in life, in preſent poſſeſſion, poiſoned by the regret of an abſent one! but my regret was a mighty and a juſt one, ſince it had my only truly beloved *Charles* for its object.

Given him up I had indeed compleatly, having never once heard from him ſince our ſeparation; which as I found afterwards, had been my misfortune, and not his neglect; for he wrote me ſeveral letters, which had all miſcarried; but forgotten him I never had: and amidſt all my perſonal infidelities, not one had made a pin's point impreſſion on a heart impenetrable to the true love-paſſion but for him.

As

As ſoon, however, as I was miſtreſs of this unexpected fortune, I felt more than ever how dear he was to me; from its inſufficiency to make me happy, whilſt he was not to ſhare it with me: my earlieſt care, conſequently, was to endeavour at getting ſome account of him; but all my reſearches produced me no more light, than that his father had been dead ſome time, not ſo well as even with the world; and that *Charles* had reached his port of deſtination in the *South Seas*, where finding the eſtate he was ſent to recover, dwindled to a trifle, by the loſs of two ſhips, in which the bulk of his uncle's fortune lay, he was come away with the ſmall remainder, and might perhaps, according to the beſt advice, in a few months return to *England*, from whence he had, at the time of this my enquiry, been abſent two years and ſeven months: a little eternity in love!

You cannot conceive with what joy I embraced the hopes thus given me of ſeeing the delight of my heart again; but as the term of months was aſſigned it, in order to divert, and amuſe my impatience for his return, after ſettling my affairs with much eaſe, and ſecurity, I ſet out on a journey for *Lancaſhire*, with an equipage ſuitable to my fortune, and with a deſign purely to reviſit my place of nativity, for which I could not help retaining a great tenderneſs, and might naturally not be ſorry to ſhew myſelf there, to the advantage I was now in paſs to do, after the report *Eſther Davis* had ſpread of

my being ſpirited away to the plantations, for on no other ſuppoſition could ſhe account for the ſuppreſſion of myſelf to her, ſince her leaving me ſo abruptly at the inn. Another favourite intention I had, to look out for my relations, though I had none beſides diſtant ones, and to prove a benefactreſs to them. Then Mrs. *Cole*'s place of retirement lying in my way, was not amongſt the leaſt of the pleaſures I had propoſed to myſelf in this expedition.

I had taken nobody with me but a diſcreet decent woman, to figure it as my companion, beſides my ſervants, and was ſcarce got into an inn, about twenty miles from London, where I was to ſup and paſs the night, when ſuch a ſtorm of wind and rain ſprang up, as made me congratulate myſelf on having got under ſhelter before it began.

This had continued a good half hour, when bethinking me of ſome directions to be given to the coachman, I ſent for him, and not caring his ſhoes ſhould ſoil the very clean parlour, in which the cloth was laid, I ſtept into the hall-kitchen, where he was, and where, whilſt I was talking to him, I ſlantingly obſerved two horſemen driven in by the weather, and both wringing wet: one of whom was aſking if they could be aſſiſted with a change, till their cloaths could be dried: but heavens! who can expreſs what I felt at the ſound of a voice, ever preſent to my heart, and that it now rebounded at! or when pointing my eyes towards the perſon it came from,

from, they confirmed its information; in ſpite of ſo long an abſence, and of a dreſs one would have imagined ſtudied for diſguiſe: a horſeman's great coat with a ſtand-up cape, and his hat flapped; but what could eſcape the piercing alertneſs of a ſenſe ſurely guided by love? a tranſport then, like mine, was above all conſideration, or ſchemes of ſurpriſe, and I, that inſtant, with the rapidity of the emotions that I felt the ſpur of, ſhot into his arms, crying out as I threw mine round his neck, 'My life!—my 'ſoul!—my *Charles!*'—and, without further power of ſpeech ſwooned away, under the oppreſſing agitations of joy and ſurpriſe.

Recovered out of my entrancement, I found myſelf in my charmer's arms, but in the parlour, ſurrounded by a croud which this event had gathered round us, and which immediately, on a ſignal from the diſcreet landlady, who currently took him for my huſband, cleared the room, and deſirably left us alone to the raptures of this reunion, my joy at which, had like to have proved, at the expence of my life, its power ſuperior to that of grief at our fatal ſeparation.

The firſt object then, that my eyes opened on, were their ſupreme idol, and my ſupreme wiſh, *Charles*, on one knee, holding me faſt by the hand, and gazing at me in a tranſport of fondneſs. Obſerving my recovery, he attempted to ſpeak, and give vent to his impatience of hearing my voice again, to ſatisfy him once more that it was *me:* but the mightineſs, and ſudden-

neſs of the ſurpriſe continuing to ſtun him, choaked his utterance: he could only ſtammer out a few broken, half-formed, faultering accents, which my ears greedily drinking in, ſpelt, and put together ſo as to make out their ſenſe. 'After ſo long!—ſo cruel!—an abſence,—— 'my deareſt *Fanny!*——Can it? can it be you?' ſtifling me at the ſame time with kiſſes, that ſtopping my mouth, at once prevented the anſwer that he panted for, and increaſed the delicious diſorder, in which all my ſenſes were rapturouſly loſt. Amidſt, however, this croud of ideas, and all bliſsful ones, there obtruded only one cruel doubt, that poiſoned nearly all this tranſcendent happineſs: and what was it, but my dread of its being too exceſſive to be real? I trembled now with the fear of its being no more than a dream, and of my waking out of it into the horrors of finding it one: under this foul apprehenſion, imagining I could not make too much of the preſent prodigious joy, before it ſhould vaniſh and leave me in the deſart again, nor verify its reality too ſtrongly, I clung to him, I claſped him, as if to hinder him from eſcaping me again. 'Where have you been?——how 'could you, could you leave me?——Say you 'are ſtill mine,—that you ſtill love me,—— 'and thus! thus! (kiſſing him as if I would con- 'ſolidate lips with him) I forgive you——for- 'give my hard fortune in favour of this reſtora- 'tion.'—All theſe interjections breaking from me, in that wildneſs of expreſſion, that juſtly

paſſes

paſſes for eloquence in love, drew from him all the returns my fond heart could wiſh, or require. Our careſſes, our queſtions, our anſwers, for ſome time, obſerved no order; all croſſing, or interrupting one another in ſweet confuſion, whilſt we exchanged hearts at our eyes, and renewed the ratifications of a love unabated by time or abſence: not a breath, not a motion, not a geſture on either ſide, but what was ſtrongly impreſſed with it. Our hands lock'd in each other, repeated the moſt paſſionate ſqueezes, ſo that their fiery thrill went to the heart again.

Thus abſorpt, and concentered in this unutterable delight; I had not attended to the ſweet author of it, being thoroughly wet, and in danger of catching cold; when, in good time, the landlady, whom the appearance of my equipage (which by the bye *Charles* knew nothing of) had gained me an intereſt in, for me, and mine, interrupted us, by bringing in a decent ſhift of linen, and cloaths, which now, ſomewhat recovered into a calmer compoſure by the coming in of a third perſon, I preſt him to take the benefit of, with a tender concern, and anxiety, that made me tremble for his health.

The landlady leaving us again, he proceeded to ſhift, in the act of which, though he proceeded with all that modeſty, which became theſe firſt ſolemner inſtants of our re-meeting, after ſo long an abſence, I could not contain certain ſnatches of my eyes, lured by the daz-

zling diſcoveries of his naked ſkin, that eſcaped him as he changed his linen, and which I could not obſerve the unfaded life, and complexion of, without emotions of tenderneſs and joy, that had himſelf too purely for their object, to partake of a looſe, or miſ-tim'd deſire.

He was ſoon dreſt in theſe temporary cloaths, which neither fitted him, nor became the light my paſſion placed him in, to me at leaſt: yet as they were on him, they looked extremely well, in virtue of that magic charm which love put into every thing that he touched, or had relation to him; and where indeed was that dreſs that a figure like his would not give grace to? For now as I ey'd him in detail, I could not but obſerve the even favourable alteration which the time of his abſence had produced in his perſon.

There were ſtill the ſame exquiſite lineaments, ſtill the ſame vivid vermilion, and bloom reigning in his face, but now the roſes were more fully blown: the tan of his travels, and a beard ſomewhat more diſtinguiſhable, had, at the expence of no more delicacy than what he could better ſpare, than not, given it an air of becoming manlineſs, and maturity, that ſymmetrized nobly with that air of diſtinction and empire, with which nature had ſtamped it, in a rare mixture with the ſweetneſs of it; ſtill nothing had he loſt of that ſmooth plumpneſs of fleſh, which glowing with freſhneſs, blooms florid to the eye, and delicious to the touch: then, his

ſhoulders

ſhoulders were grown more ſquare, his ſhape more formed, more portly, but ſtill free, and airy. In ſhort, his figure ſhewed riper, greater, and perfecter to the experienced eye, than in his tender youth; and now, he was not much more than two and twenty.

In this interval, however, I picked out of the broken, often pleaſingly, interrupted account of himſelf, that he was, at that inſtant, actually on his road to *London*, in not a very paramount plight or condition, having been wrecked on the *Iriſh* coaſt, for which he had prematurely embarked, and loſt the little all he had brought with him from the *South-Seas*, ſo that he had not, till after great ſhifts and hardſhips, in the company of his fellow traveller, the captain, got ſo far on his journey; that ſo it was, (having heard of his father's death and circumſtances) he had now the world to begin again, on a new account: a ſituation, which he aſſured me, in a vein of ſincerity, that flowing from his heart, penetrated mine, gave him no farther pain, than that he had it not in his power, to make me as happy as he could wiſh. My fortune, you will pleaſe to obſerve, I had not entered upon any overture of, reſerving to feaſt myſelf with the ſurpriſe of it to him, in calmer inſtants. And as to my dreſs, it could give him no idea of the truth, not only as it was mourning, but likewiſe in a ſtile of plainneſs and ſimplicity, that I had ever kept to with ſtudied art. He preſſed me indeed tenderly to ſatisfy his ardent curioſity, both

both with regard to my paſt and preſent ſtate of life, ſince his being torn away from me; but I had the addreſs to elude his queſtions, by anſwers that ſhewing his ſatisfaction at no great diſtance, won upon him to wave his impatience, in favour of the thorough confidence he had in my not delaying it, but for reſpects I ſhould in good time acquaint him with.

Charles however thus returned to my longing arms, tender, faithful, and in health, was already a bleſſing too mighty for my conception! but, *Charles* in diſtreſs! —— *Charles* reduced, and broke down to his naked perſonal merit, was ſuch a circumſtance, in favour of the ſentiments I had for him, as exceeded my utmoſt deſires: and accordingly, I ſeemed ſo viſibly charmed, ſo out of time and meaſure pleaſed at his mention of his ruined fortune, that he could account for it no way but that the joy of ſeeing him again had ſwallowed up every other ſenſe or concern.

In the mean time, my woman had taken all imaginable care of *Charles*'s travelling companion; and, as ſupper was coming in, he was introduced to me, when I received him as became my regard for all of *Charles*'s acquaintance, or friends.

We four then ſupped together in the ſtile of joy, congratulation, and pleaſing diſorder, that you may gueſs. For my part, though all theſe agitations had left me not the leaſt ſtomach, but for that uncloying feaſt, the ſight of my adored youth,

youth, I endeavoured to force it, by way of example for him, who, I conjectured, muſt want ſuch a recruit after riding, and indeed, he eat like a traveller; but gazed at, and addreſſed me all the time like a lover.

After the cloth was taken away, and the hour of repoſe came on, *Charles* and I were, without further ceremony, in quality of man and wife, ſhewn up together to a very handſome apartment, and, all in courſe, the bed, they ſaid, to be the beſt in the inn.

And here, decency forgive me! if, once more I violate thy laws, and keeping the curtains undrawn, ſacrifice thee for the laſt time, to that confidence, without reſerve, with which I engaged to recount to you the moſt ſtriking circumſtances of my youthful diſorders.

As ſoon then as we were in the room together, left to ourſelves, the ſight of the bed ſtarting the remembrance of our firſt joys, and the thought of my being inſtantly to ſhare it with the dear poſſeſſor of my virgin heart, moved me ſo ſtrongly, that it was well I leaned upon him, or I muſt have fainted again, under the overpowering ſweet alarm. *Charles* ſaw into my confuſion, and forgot his own, that was ſcarce leſs, to apply himſelf to the removal of mine.

But now the true refining paſſion had regained thorough poſſeſſion of me, with all its train of ſymptoms; a ſweet ſenſibility, a tender timidity, love-ſick yearnings tempered with diffidence and modeſty, all held me in a ſubjection of ſoul, in-

incomparably dearer to me than the liberty of heart which I had been long, too long! the miſtreſs of, in the courſe of thoſe groſſer gallantries, the conſciouſneſs of which now made me ſigh with a virtuous confuſion and regret: no real virgin in ſhort, in view of the nuptial bed, could give more baſhful bluſhes to unblemiſhed innocence, than I did to a ſenſe of guilt; and indeed I loved *Charles* too truly not to feel ſeverely, that I did not deſerve him.

As I kept heſitating, and diſconcerted under this ſoft diſtraction, *Charles*, with a fond impatience, took the pains to undreſs me, and all I can remember, amidſt the fluttering and diſcompoſure of my ſenſes, was, ſome fluttering exclamations of joy and admiration, more eſpecially at the feel of my breaſts, now ſet at liberty from my ſtays, and which panting and riſing in tumultuous throbs, ſwelled upon his dear touch, and gave it the welcome pleaſure of finding them well-formed, and unfailed in firmneſs.

I was ſoon laid in bed, and ſcarce languiſhed an inſtant for the darling partner of it, before he was undreſs'd and got between the ſheets, with his arms claſped round me, giving and taking, with a guſt inexpreſſible, a kiſs of welcome, that my heart riſing to my lips, ſtamped with its warmeſt impreſſion, concurring to my bliſs, with that delicate and voluptuous emotion which *Charles* alone had the ſecret to excite, and which conſtitutes the very life, the eſſence of pleaſure.

Mean while, two candles lighted on a ſide-table

table near us, and a joyous wood-fire, threw a light into the bed, that took from one ſenſe of great importance to our joys, all pretext of complaining of its being ſhut out of its ſhare of them: and indeed, the ſight of my idolized youth, was, alone from the ardour with which I had wiſhed for it, without other circumſtance, a pleaſure to die of.

But as action was now a neceſſity to deſires ſo much on edge as ours, *Charles*, after a very ſhort preluſive dalliance, lifting up my linen and his own, laid the broad treaſures of his manly cheſt cloſe to my boſom, both beating with the tendereſt alarms! when now, the ſenſe of his glowing body in naked touch with mine, took all power over my thoughts out of my own diſpoſal, and delivered up every faculty of my ſoul to the ſenſibleſt of joys, that affecting me infinitely more with my diſtinction of the perſon, than of the ſex, now brought my conſcious heart deliciouſly into play; my heart, which, eternally conſtant to *Charles*, had never taken any part in my occaſional ſacrifices to the calls of conſtitution, complaiſance, or intereſt. But, ah! what became of me, when, as the powers of ſolid pleaſure thickened upon me, I could not help feeling the ſtiff ſtake that had been adorned with the trophies of my deſpoiled virginity, bearing hard and inflexible againſt one of my thighs, which I had not yet opened, from a true principle of modeſty, revived by a paſſion too ſincere to ſuffer any aiming at the falſe merit of difficulty,

culty, or my putting on an impertinent mock-coyneſs.

I have, I believe, ſomewhere before remarked, that the feel of that favourite piece of manhood has, in the very nature of it, ſomething inimitably pathetic. Nothing can be dearer to the touch, or can affect it with a more delicious ſenſation. Think then! as a lover think, what muſt be the conſummate tranſport of that quickeſt of our ſenſes, in their central ſeat too! when after ſo long a deprival, it felt itſelf re-inflamed under the preſſure of that peculiar ſcepter-member, which commands us all: but eſpecially my darling elect from the face of the whole earth. And now, at its mightieſt point of ſtiffneſs, it felt to me ſomething ſo ſubduing, ſo active, ſo ſolid and agreeable, that I know not what name to give its ſingular impreſſion; but the ſentiment of conſciouſneſs of its belonging to my ſupremely beloved youth, gave me ſo pleaſing an agitation, and worked ſo ſtrongly on my ſoul, that it ſent all its ſenſitive ſpirits to that organ of bliſs in me, dedicated to its reception: there concentrating to a point, like rays in a burning-glaſs, they glowed, they burnt with the intenſeſt heat: the ſprings of pleaſure were, in ſhort, wound up to ſuch a pitch! I panted now with ſo exquiſitely keen an appetite for the imminent enjoyment, that I was even ſick with deſire, and unequal to ſupport the combination of two diſtinct ideas, that delightfully diſtracted me! for all the thought I was capable of, was that I

was

was now in touch at once with the inſtrument of pleaſure, and the great-ſeal of love; ideas that mingling ſtreams, poured ſuch an ocean of intoxicating bliſs on a weak veſſel, all too narrow to contain it, that I lay overwhelmed, abſorpt, loſt in an abyſs of joy, and dying of nothing but immoderate delight.

Charles then rouzed me ſomewhat out of this extatic diſtraction, with a complaint ſoftly murmured amidſt a croud of kiſſes, at the poſition, not ſo favourable to his deſires, in which I received his urgent inſtance for admiſſion, where that inſiſtance was alone ſo ingroſſing a pleaſure, that it made me inconſiſtently ſuffer a much dearer one to be kept out; but how ſweet to correct ſuch a miſtake! my thighs now obedient to the intimations of love and nature, gladly diſcloſe, and with a ready ſubmiſſion reſign up the ſoft gateway to entrance at pleaſure: I ſee! I feel! the delicious velvet tip! — he enters might and main with — oh! — my pen drops from me here in the extaſy now preſent to my faithful memory! Deſcription too deſerts me, and delivers over a taſk, above its ſtrength of wing, to the imagination: but it muſt be an imagination exalted by ſuch a flame as mine, that can do juſtice to that ſweeteſt, nobleſt of all ſenſations that hailed and accompanied the ſtiff inſinuation all the way up, till it was at the end of its penetration, ſending up, through my eyes, the ſparks of the love-fire that ran all over me,

and

and blazed in every vein, and every pore of me: a ſyſtem incarnate of joy all over.

I had now totally taken in love's true arrow from the point up to the feather, in that part, where making no new wound, the lips of the original one of nature, which had owed its firſt breathing to this dear inſtrument, clung, as if ſenſible of gratitude, in eager ſuction round it, whilſt all its inwards embraced it tenderly, with a warmth of guſt, a compreſſive energy that gave it, in its way, the heartieſt welcome in nature, every fibre there gathering tight round it, and ſtraining ambitiouſly to come in for its ſhare of the bliſsful touch.

As we were giving then a few moments of pauſe to the delectation of the ſenſes, in dwelling with the higheſt reliſh on this intimateſt point of re-union, and chewing the cud of enjoyment, the impatience natural to the pleaſure ſoon drove us into action. Then begun the driving tumult on his ſide, and the reſponſive heaves on mine, which kept me up to him: whilſt as our joys grew too mighty for utterance, the organs of our voice, voluptuouſly intermixing, became organs of the touch: And, oh, that touch, how delicious! how poignantly luſcious! —— And now! now! I felt! to the heart of me, I felt the prodigious keen edge, with which love, preſiding over this act, points the pleaſure: love! that may be ſtiled the attic ſalt of enjoyment; and indeed, without it, the joy, great as it is, is ſtill a vulgar one, whether in a king or a beggar:

beggar: for it is undoubtedly love alone, that refines, ennobles, and exalts it.

Thus happy then, by the heart, happy by the ſenſes, it was beyond all power, even of thought, to form the conception of a greater delight, than what I was now conſummating the fruition of.

Charles, whoſe whole frame all convulſed with the agitation of his rapture, whilſt the tendereſt fires trembled in his eyes, all aſſured me of a perfect concord of joy, penetrated me ſo profoundly, touched me ſo vitally, took me ſo much out of my own poſſeſſion, whilſt he ſeemed himſelf ſo much in mine, that in a delicious enthuſiaſm I imagined ſuch a transfuſion of heart and ſpirit, as that coalizing, and making one body and ſoul with him, I was him, and he, me.

But all this pleaſure tending, like life from its firſt inſtants, towards its own diſſolution, lived too faſt, not to bring on upon the ſpur its delicious moment of mortality; for preſently the approach of the tender agony diſcovered itſelf by its uſual ſignals, that were quickly followed by my dear love's liquid emanation of himſelf, that ſpun out, and ſhot feelingly indeed! up the raviſhed indraught, where the ſweetly ſoothing balmy titilation opened at the warm jerk, all the ſluices of joy on my ſide, which extatically in flow, helped to allay the prurient glow, and drowned our pleaſure for awhile, ſoon however to be on float again!

for *Charles*, true to nature's laws, in one breath expiring, and ejaculating, languiſhed not long in the diſſolving trance, but recovering ſpirit again, ſoon gave me to feel that the true mettle ſprings of his inſtrument of pleaſure, were by love, and perhaps by a long vacation, wound up too high to be let down by a ſingle exploſion; his ſtiffneſs ſtill ſtood my friend: reſuming then the action afreſh, without diſlodging, or giving me the trouble of parting from my ſweet tenant, we played over-again the ſame opera, with the ſame delightful harmony and concert: our ardours, like our love, knew no remiſſion: and, all as the tide ſerved, my lover, laviſh of his ſtores, and pleaſure-milk'd, overflowed me once more from the fulneſs of thoſe his oval reſervoirs of the genial emulſion: whilſt on my ſide, a convulſive graſp in the inſtant of my giving down my liquid contribution, rendered me ſweetly ſubſervient at once, to the increaſe of his joy, and of its effuſions, moving me ſo as to make me exert all thoſe ſprings of the compreſſive exſuction, with which the ſenſitive mechaniſm of that part thirſtily draws and drains the nipple of love, with much ſuch an inſtinctive eagerneſs, and attachment, as, to compare great with leſs, kind nature engages infants at the breaſt, by the pleaſure they find in the motion of their little mouths and cheeks, to extract the milky ſtream prepared for their nouriſhment.

But ſtill there was no end of his vigour: this double-diſcharge, had ſo far from extinguiſhed his deſires, for that time, that it had not even calmed them: and, at his age, deſires are power: he was proceeding then amazingly to puſh it to a third triumph, ſtill without uncaſing: if a tenderneſs natural to true love, had not inſpired me with ſelf-denial enough to ſpare, and not overſtrain him, and accordingly, entreating him to give himſelf and me quarter, I obtained at length a ſhort ſuſpenſion of arms, but not before he had exultingly ſatisfied me that he gave out ſtanding.

The remainder of the night, with what we borrowed upon the day, we employed with unwearied fervour, in celebrating thus the feſtival of our re-meeting; and got up pretty late in the morning, gay, briſk, and alert, though reſt had been a ſtranger to us, but the pleaſures of love had been to us, what the joy at victory is to an army, repoſe, refreſhment: every thing.

The journey into the country being now intirely out of the queſtion, and orders having been given over-night for turning the horſes heads towards *London*, we left the inn as ſoon as we had breakfaſted, not without a liberal diſtribution of the tokens of my grateful ſenſe of the happineſs I had met with in it.

Charles and I were in my coach, the captain and my companion in a chaiſe hired purpoſely for them, to leave us the conveniency of a *tete-à-tete*.

Here, on the road, as the tumult of my ſenſes was tolerably compoſed, I had command enough of head, to break, properly, to him, the courſe of life that the conſequences of my ſeparation from him had driven me into, which, at the ſame time that he tenderly deplored with me, he was the leſs ſhocked at, as on reflecting how he had left me circumſtanced, he could not be entirely unprepared for it.

But when I opened the ſtate of my fortune to him, and with that ſincerity, which from me, to him, was ſo much a nature in me, I begged of him his acceptance of it, on his own terms, I ſhould appear to you perhaps too partial to my paſſion, were I to attempt the doing of his delicacy juſtice. I ſhall content myſelf then with aſſuring you, that after his flatly refuſing the unreſerved, unconditional donation that I long perſecuted him in vain to accept, it was at length, in obedience to his ſerious commands (for I ſtood out unaffectedly, till he exerted the ſovereign authority which love had given him over me) that I yielded my conſent to wave the remonſtrance I did not fail of making ſtrongly to him, againſt his degrading himſelf, and incurring the reflection, however unjuſt, of having, for reſpects of fortune, bartered his honour for infamy and proſtitution, in making one his wife, who thought herſelf too much honoured in being but his miſtreſs.

The

The plea of love then over-ruling all objections, *Charles*, entirely won with the merit of my ſentiments for him, which he could not but read the ſincerity of in a heart ever open to him, obliged me to receive his hand, by which means I was in paſs, amongſt other innumerable bleſſings, to beſtow a legal parentage on thoſe fine children you have ſeen by this happieſt of matches.

Thus, at length, I got ſnug into port, where, in the boſom of virtue, I gathered the only uncorrupt ſweets: where, looking back on the courſe of vice, I had run, and comparing its infamous blandiſhments with the infinitely ſuperior joys of innocence, I could not help pitying, even in point of taſte, thoſe who, immerſed in a groſs ſenſuality, are inſenſible to the ſo delicate charms of VIRTUE, than which even PLEASURE has not a greater friend, nor than VICE a greater enemy. Thus temperance makes men lords over thoſe pleaſures that intemperance enſlaves them to: the one, parent of health, vigour, fertility, chearfulneſs, and every other deſirable good in life; the other, of diſeaſes, debility, barrenneſs, ſelf-loathing, with only every evil incident to human nature.

You laugh perhaps at this tail-piece of morality, expreſs'd from me by the force of truth, reſulting from compared experiences: you think it, no doubt, out of place; out of character: poſſibly too you may look on it as the paultry

fineſſe of one who ſeeks to maſk a devotee to vice under a rag of a veil, impudently ſmuggled from the ſhrine of virtue; juſt as if one was to fancy one's ſelf compleatly diſguiſed at a maſquerade, with no other change of dreſs, than turning one's ſhoes into ſlippers: or, as if a writer ſhould think to ſhield a treaſonable libel, by concluding it with a formal prayer for the king. But, independent of my flattering myſelf that you have a juſter opinion of my ſenſe, and ſincerity, give me leave to repreſent to you, that ſuch a ſuppoſition is even more injurious to virtue, than to me: ſince conſiſtently with candour and good-nature it can have no foundation but in the falſeſt of fears, that its pleaſures cannot ſtand in compariſon with thoſe of vice, but let truth dare to hold it up in its moſt alluring light: then mark! how ſpurious, how low of taſte, how comparatively inferior its joys are to thoſe which virtue gives ſanction to, and whoſe ſentiments are not above making even a ſauce for the ſenſes, but a ſauce of the higheſt reliſh! whilſt vices are the harpies that infect and foul the feaſt. The paths of vice are ſometimes ſtrewed with roſes, but then they are for ever infamous for many a thorn; for many a canker-worm; thoſe of virtue are ſtrewed with roſes purely, and thoſe eternally unfading ones.

If you do me then juſtice, you will eſteem me perfectly conſiſtent in the incenſe I burn to virtue: if I have painted vice in all its gayeſt colours,

lours, if I have decked it with flowers, it has been ſolely in order to make the worthier, the ſolemner ſacrifice of it, to virtue.

You know Mr. *C—— O——*, you know his eſtate, his worth, and good ſenſe: can you? will you pronounce it ill meant, at leaſt of him? when anxious for his ſon's morals, with a view to form him to virtue, and inſpire him with a fixt, a rational contempt for vice, he condeſcended to be his maſter of the ceremonies, and led him by the hand through the moſt noted bawdy-houſes in town, where he took care that he ſhould be familiarized with all thoſe ſcenes of debauchery, ſo fit to nauſeate a good taſte. The experiment, you will cry, is dangerous. True, on a fool: but are fools worth the leaſt attention to?

I ſhall ſee you ſoon, and in the mean time think candidly of me, and believe me ever,

Madam,

Yours, &c. &c. &c.

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